

UNIT HISTORY 101

Understanding Your
Lineage and Honors



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CONTENTS

Preface	ix
Introduction	1
Section 1: The Evolution of Campaign Credit and Honors	5
Section 2: Elements of the Lineage and Honors Certificate	11
Official Unit Designation	11
Special Designations	14
Organizational Changes	14
Campaign Participation Credit	15
Arrowhead.	16
Asterisks and the Earned Honor Device.	17
Decorations	18
Section 3: Official Unit Designation, NOT Functional Designation . .	19
Section 4: Basics on Unit Numbers	23
Numbers Across Components	23
History and Designations	25
Section 5: Special Designations.	27
Types of Special Designations.	27
Examples of Special Designations.	28
Eligibility	28
Requesting.	29
Special Designations, Mottos, and Call Signs	30
Section 6: Unit Days	31
Eligibility	32
Observance	32
Requesting.	33

Section 7: Honors	35
Campaign Participation Credit	35
Decorations	35
Additional Information about Honors	40
Section 8: Organizational History File	43
Section 9: Combat Arms Regimental System (CARS) and U.S. Army Regimental System (USARS)	47
Section 10: Army National Guard Lineages.	51
Section 11: How to Request a Lineage and Honors Certificate for MTOE Units	59
Section 12: Table of Distribution and Allowances (TDA) Units . . .	61
Section 13: TDA Training Regiments and Lineage.	65
Section 14: Supporting Organizations.	67
The Institute of Heraldry	67
Clothing and Heraldry Product Support Integration Directorate . .	69
U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center	70
Museum Support Center–Anniston	71
Awards and Decorations Branch, U.S. Army Human Resources Command	72
Army Uniform Policy Branch.	74
Frequently Asked Questions	77
Annex 1: Campaign Streamers of the U.S. Army.	87
Annex 2: Sources of Army Records	97
Annex 3: Sample Lineage Requests	105

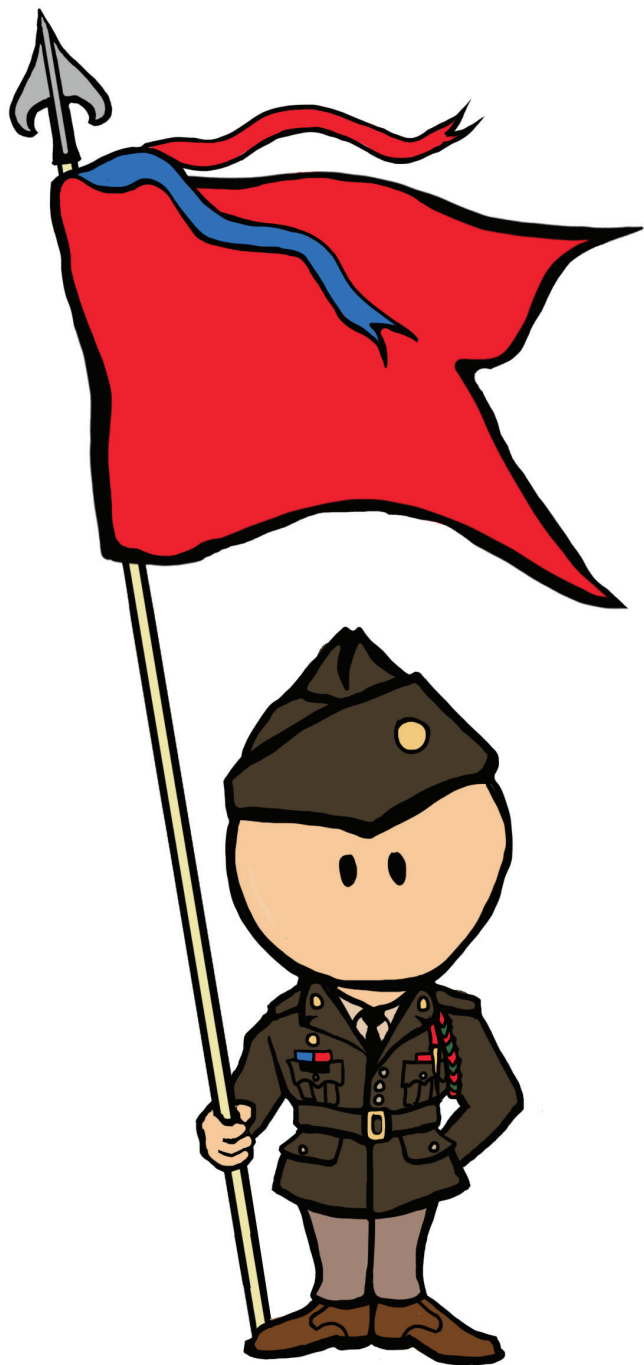
Annex 4: Who Does What? 109

Annex 5: Glossary of Terms 111

PREFACE

For most soldiers, their unit of assignment represents their home within the larger, more complex organization that is the U.S. Army. While they identify with the institution—its values, and its mission to defend the Constitution, its people, and the territory of the United States—most think of their unit and the role it plays in the Army’s mission when they envision their duty as soldiers. Several offices collaborate to preserve and promote unit history. The historians of the Field Programs and Organizational History Division, U.S. Army Center of Military History (CMH), have the primary mission to research and prepare Lineage and Honors Certificates, Special Designation Certificates, and Unit Day Certificates, maintain the Rolls of the Army, research and select appropriate designations for new units, and select historic units for activation in the Regular Army and Army Reserve. This reference book will help to introduce soldiers to the basics of unit history, the offices involved in the process, and the policies and procedures laid out in official Army regulations.

Note: The terms “battalions” and “companies” also refer to squadrons, troops, and batteries, unless otherwise stated.



INTRODUCTION

They aren't forgotten, because they haven't died. They're living. Right out there. Collingwood and the rest. They'll keep on living as long as the regiment lives. The pay is thirteen dollars a month, their diet beans and hay. Maybe horsemeat before this campaign is over. They'll fight over cards or rotgut whiskey, but share the last drop in their canteens. The faces may change, the names, but they're there. They're the regiment.

Capt. Kirby York, *Fort Apache* (Warner Brothers, 1948)

Although spoken by a fictional character played by John Wayne, the statement remains as true today as it did in the 1948 John Ford classic Western film *Fort Apache*. An Army unit is more than a mission, a number, or the soldiers in its ranks. Likewise, unit history is more than a record of official service or a list of authorized streamers. Unit history is what bridges a unit's past with the present. Soldiers represent those who came before, whether they fought at Bunker Hill, stormed the beaches of Normandy, or patrolled the mountains of Afghanistan. The people will change but the unit's history remains.

Physically, an Army unit is an assemblage of people who share in an official designation, colors, awards, and other properties, legally constituted and authorized by Congress. It is more than the sum of its people and equipment, however; it is a community with a shared identity. Soldiers in a unit hold common traditions, values, and experiences that stretch across generations. Two members of a unit may not have served together but will acknowledge one another as sharing the heritage of their organization.

History plays a crucial part in building communal identity. At the national level, knowledge of the country's history contributes to patriotism and a better-informed citizenry. Similarly, in the Army, unit history educates soldiers and strengthens esprit de corps. Knowledge of a unit's origins and past deeds creates a sense of belonging among members, inspiring present-day soldiers to live up to the standards their forebears set.

Unit history relies on stringent recordkeeping to ensure accuracy and authenticity. Myths and legends obscure true history and lead to misunderstandings and confusion. The historians of the Force Structure

and Organizational History Division, U.S. Army Center of Military History, therefore trace units' organizational changes, awards, and campaign credit using only official sources. Unit history focuses on the accomplishments of the unit rather than the exploits of individuals. As a result, Organizational History Division historians do not trace individual awards or the records of individual soldiers. That information is maintained by the National Personnel Records Center for records created since World War II and the National Archives for earlier records.



Maintaining organizational history is a complex task. The Army today is composed of over 8,000 units spread across the Regular Army, National Guard, and Army Reserve. Every unit, from corps and divisions to independent platoons and detachments, has a history. The oldest Regular Army unit dates to 1775, while the oldest National Guard units go back to 1636. Over time, most units experience reorganizations, redesignations, and changes to home stations, and some are consolidated while others are expanded. Many units have fought in war, earning campaign credits and decorations. Organizational History Division historians manage the records for all these unit changes.

While there are currently 8,000 active units, over 100,000 more are inactive. Many served with distinction in past conflicts. Organizational History Division historians use the records of inactive units to answer public inquiries, assist with the preparation of Army historical publications,

and choose units for reactivation when the Army needs them. All of these tasks preserve the Army's heritage.

One of the most visible symbols of a unit's history is the Lineage and Honors Certificate. This document lists the date of the unit's organization and activation, its major organizational changes, Campaign Participation Credits, and decorations. It provides an outline of the unit's origins, conflicts it has been in, and what it has accomplished. This document constitutes the unit's birth certificate, its service record, and its deed to organizational properties. The original certificate is intended for display in an appropriate, conspicuous place. If a new soldier seeks to learn more about their unit, and the shared community that comprises it, they can start by looking at their Lineage and Honors Certificate.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

The Army's history plays a role in the everyday life of soldiers in every component of the U.S. Army. When a soldier joins a unit and places a new shoulder sleeve insignia or Distinctive Unit Insignia on his or her uniform for the first time, organizational history tells us the accomplishments and story behind that insignia, the achievements of the soldiers who came before. When a soldier prepares his or her dress uniform for inspection, organizational history tells how that unit earned the awards placed above the right breast pocket. When a soldier stands in formation for a change of command, organizational history tells why those streamers hang from the flag or guidon. Understanding a unit's organizational history helps connect one generation of soldiers to the generation who came before and inspires the soldiers of today to pass on that legacy to those who will follow them.

Just as historical challenges and sacrifices are important, today's soldiers must ensure that they accurately record their unit history. As they serve with different units throughout their career, they will help add to the legacy of those organizations. Understanding how soldiers play a role in the history of their organizations helps encourage soldiers to record their day-to-day actions for the future. Organizational history helps a soldier be a part of something bigger than themselves, both now and many years from now.



The 1775 Flag of the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry, today part of the 1st Squadron, 104th Cavalry Regiment, Pennsylvania Army National Guard (*Courtesy of the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry*)

SECTION 1

THE EVOLUTION OF CAMPAIGN CREDIT AND HONORS

After the soldiers that comprise it, a unit's flag is its most precious and sacred item. In years past, military organizations went to great lengths to design and fabricate their flags, acquiring silk or bunting, and applying elaborate artwork, gold, and silver bullion. Flags marked a unit's place on the battlefield to friend and foe alike, and that the unit remained in the fight. Generals considered the capture of an enemy flag a deed of great valor. Soldiers likewise defended their flags fiercely. Color Sergeant William Carney of the 54th Regiment Infantry, Massachusetts Volunteers, who received a Medal of Honor for his defense of the color in the close fighting at Battery Wagner on 18 July 1863, put it succinctly, "The old flag never touched the ground."

The first recorded use of campaign honors began in 1861, when Maj. Gen. John C. Fremont ordered the word "Springfield" inscribed on the colors of units that had fought at the Battle of Wilson's Creek near Springfield, Missouri. On 22 February 1862, the War Department issued Headquarters of the Army General Order 19, directing Army units to inscribe their colors or guidons with the names of the battles in which they fought.

In 1866, as part of a postwar downsizing, the Army reorganized its infantry regiments from three-battalion structures into smaller one-battalion structures. Doing so meant combining, or *consolidating*, multiple regiments. To keep track of the consolidations, and which regiment was entitled to what campaign credits, Army General Order 55 of 15 April 1867 directed that the Army publish the date each unit organized, its consolidations, and a list of the battles to its credit in the *Army Register*. General Order 55 authorized regiments to bear on their colors the names of all the battles in which the regiments (including the consolidated regiments), were engaged. On 7 February 1890, the Army discontinued the practice of inscribing battle honors on unit colors, and introduced engraved silver bands, which soldiers tacked or screwed onto the staff of their unit colors or guidons.



Flag of the 35th Infantry United States Colored Troops, showing the battles it participated in (*National Museum of the United States Army*)

But what was a battle? What part of a unit must be present at a battle to get credit? What record should be made in the cases of consolidated units? In 1877, President Ulysses S. Grant appointed a board of officers to answer these questions. He put Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock, a senior officer and experienced corps commander, in charge of the board. The Hancock Board, as it came to be known, met between December 1877 and February 1878.

The Hancock Board defined a battle as an important engagement between independent armies in their own theaters of war, with the object to determine an important issue of policy or strategy. If only a portion of an army fought in an engagement, but the engagement determined

an important issue of policy or strategy, then the action qualified as a battle. Today, we use the term campaign instead of battle, but the basic definition remains the same: a campaign is a battle or series of battles fought by the whole army, or a major part of the army, that determines an important strategic or political issue. For example, the Meuse-Argonne campaign of 26 September to 11 November 1918 qualifies as a campaign because most of the U.S. Army in France fought in it. By contrast, although only a few units fought at Fort McHenry on 13–14 September 1814, the victory saved Baltimore and prevented the British from dominating the Chesapeake Bay, an important strategic impact which qualifies Fort McHenry as a campaign. The famous battles for the beaches of Normandy on 6

June 1944, while notable for numerous acts of valor, did not individually have a strategic impact nor involve enough units to merit a campaign. However, those battles are part of the larger Normandy Campaign of 6 June to 24 July, which includes amphibious landings, air assaults, hedgerow fighting, and numerous other battles.

To receive credit for participating in a campaign, the unit had to fight in the battle. But what if part of the unit was in reserve or even off fighting somewhere else? If two or more companies representing at least a third of a battalion or regiment fought in a campaign, the Hancock Board awarded campaign credit to the whole unit. If just one company, troop, or battery



Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock
(Library of Congress)



Brig. Gen. C. E. Kilbourne pins a unit citation on the flag of the 9th Infantry, 1918 (*National Archives at College Park*)

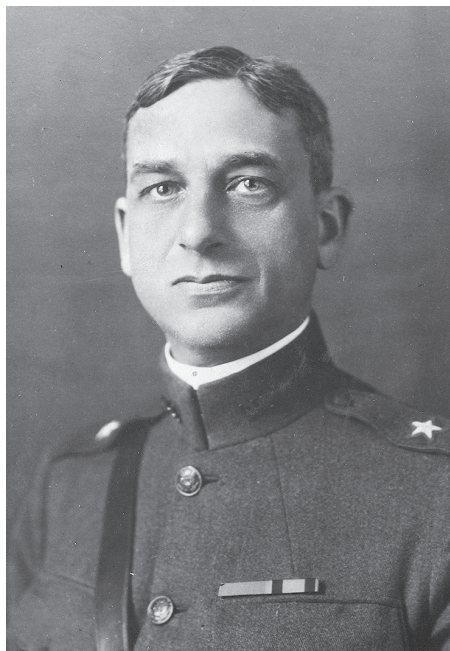
in a battalion earned credit for a campaign, then only that company, troop, or battery can display the campaign as an additional honor. If two or more units that qualified for battle credit consolidated, their honors were listed under the new regiment that they formed. New battalions of a regiment formed later did not carry the regimental honors and would not pass those honors on in any future reorganization. This remained true for all units until the institution of the Combat Arms Regimental System (CARS) in the 1950s. (See Section 9 for more on CARS.)

The Hancock Board created the campaign policy we use today. But how did we come to use streamers, and how did we come to create Lineage and Honors Certificates? In World War I, silver was scarce, so the War Department authorized General John J. Pershing to purchase ribbons as a substitute. The Army introduced embroidered purple silk streamers on 3 June 1920. The original directive prescribed that silk streamers would represent each war in which the organization participated. The name of the battle or campaign was embroidered on the ribbon.

Participation in World War I led to the reorganization or creation of hundreds of units under a new system of designations (see Section 4, Basics on Unit Numbers). Redesignations, especially in the National Guard, created confusion when it came to tracing entitlement to honors. Without the previous state designations, how could a unit claim an honor that it earned in the Civil War, or earlier? On 4 March 1920, the War Department declared that “the numerical designation of a troop unit does not in itself entitle that unit to inherit the history of any previous unit having that number; the organization itself will be traced through all its

changes, regardless of number.” In other words, unit history is more than a number. To keep track of these reorganizations, redesignations, periods of federal service, and participation in battles, the Army created the Historical Section, War Plans Division, on 9 February 1918. Today’s Force Structure and Organizational History Division descends from this group. Among its duties, the Historical Section collected, compiled, and maintained complete military records.

In the early 1920s, the Army authorized the Distinctive Unit Insignia (DUI) for the Army uniform. The DUI had to reflect the unit’s history in its design. It also formed the Coat of Arms that appears on regimental and battalion colors. If a unit submitted a design that showed symbolism suggesting that it had fought in the Civil War or the War with Spain, the unit had to submit an outline history showing all the reorganizations and redesignations back to its organization, along with supporting documentation. The Chief, Historical Branch, War Plans Division,



Brig. Gen. Oliver L. Spaulding Jr.
(National Archives)

Brig. Gen. Oliver L. Spaulding Jr. and his assistants reviewed the outline history and, if it passed muster, published the history in the *Army Register* or the *Official National Guard Register*. The Office of the Chief of Military History could also check other records that it had been collecting since 1918, such as the foreign awards that France and other countries bestowed on American units during the war.

The Historical Branch that organized in 1918 evolved over the previous century and is today the Force Structure and Organizational History Division. Its duties and responsibilities have also expanded and evolved, but the creation and verification of outline histories, which now form a part of the Lineage and Honors Certificate, has remained one of the division's core missions.

SECTION 2

ELEMENTS OF THE LINEAGE AND HONORS CERTIFICATE

A Lineage and Honors Certificate, or “lineage,” is a unit’s outline history. The lineage establishes the continuity of a unit through various changes in designation and status, thereby verifying its entitlement to honors, as well as heraldic items, unit historical property and files, and other tangible assets. A lineage does not include the operational history of a unit but contains key facts that can be used to write one.

Lineage and Honors Certificates are prepared for most Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) units that are authorized a distinguishing flag or guidon by The Institute of Heraldry (TIOH; see Section 14). Soldiers will find information regarding their unit’s past achievements on a lineage.

Leaders can also use a lineage to determine which unit awards should be represented by ribbons worn on the Army Service Uniform and which streamers should be displayed on their unit flag or guidon.

Official Unit Designation

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS BATTALION 25th INFANTRY DIVISION

Official Unit Designation (*CMH*)

The official unit designation is listed at the top of the certificate. This is the unit designation that Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA) tracks. Units often add functions into their designations (e.g., Stryker, Sapper, CBRN) but those are informal, often temporary, and not part of the official unit designation. Many units also use parentheticals (e.g., [Airborne], [Sapper]), which are likewise not an official part of a unit’s designation. Parentheticals are often represented by acronyms that can be confusing to soldiers outside of that specialty. Official unit designations exist for clarity, ease of recognition, and planning. Soldiers should use their full official unit designation wherever possible and avoid functional



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Lineage and Honors

**HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS BATTALION
25th INFANTRY DIVISION
(TROPIC LIGHTNING)**

Constituted 26 August 1941 in the Army of the United States as Headquarters, 25th Infantry Division

Activated 1 October 1941 at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii

Allotted 27 June 1949 to the Regular Army

Reorganized and redesignated 1 April 1960 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 25th Infantry Division

Reorganized and redesignated 16 November 2005 as Headquarters and Tactical Command Posts, 25th Infantry Division

Reorganized and redesignated 16 January 2010 as Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 25th Infantry Division (organic elements of Headquarters Battalion concurrently constituted and activated)

CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

World War II
Central Pacific
Guadalcanal
Northern Solomons
Luzon

Korean War
UN Defensive
UN Offensive
CCF Intervention
First UN Counteroffensive
CCF Spring Offensive
UN Summer-Fall Offensive
Second Korean Winter
Korea, Summer-Fall 1952
Third Korean Winter
Korea, Summer 1953

**HEADQUARTERS BATTALION
25th INFANTRY DIVISION
(TROPIC LIGHTNING)**

Vietnam
Counteroffensive
Counteroffensive, Phase II
Counteroffensive, Phase III
Tet Counteroffensive
Counteroffensive, Phase IV
Counteroffensive, Phase V
Counteroffensive, Phase VI
Tet 69/Counteroffensive
Summer-Fall 1969
Winter-Spring 1970
Sanctuary Counteroffensive
Counteroffensive, Phase VII

War on Terrorism
Afghanistan:
Consolidation I
Iraq:
National Resolution
Iraqi Surge
Iraqi Sovereignty
New Dawn

DECORATIONS

Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1965

Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered IRAQ 2006-2007

Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered IRAQ 2008-2009

Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered SOUTHWEST ASIA 2010-

2012

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered 17 OCTOBER 1944 TO 4 JULY

1945

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered MASAN-CHINJULI

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered MUNSAN-NI

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1966-

1968

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1968-

1970

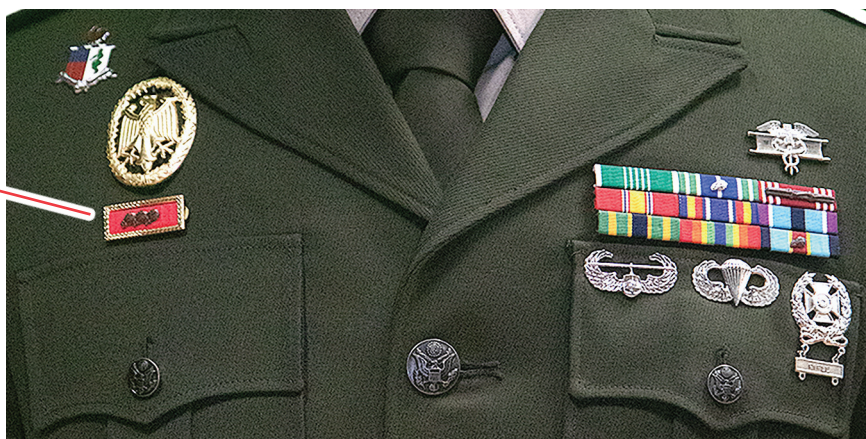
Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1966-1970

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:


CHARLES R. BOWERY, JR.
Chief of Military History



Streamers, like the kind shown here, reflect unit and campaign information shown on the lineage certificate.



Some uniform decorations also reflect unit citations shown on the lineage certificate.

designations that may not be recognizable outside of their organization or occupational specialty. Every year, the Army gets requests for information that only list a veteran's partial unit designation. A functional designation or an acronym that is recognizable now will more than likely not be recognizable in 50 years. This can make it harder to obtain documentation of a soldier's service, which could possibly result in a veteran not getting his or her benefits. That veteran could be you.

Special Designations

(TROPIC LIGHTNING)

Special Designation from Lineage (*CMH*)

Once approved, official Special Designations, or "nicknames," are included on lineage certificates. This example, "TROPIC LIGHTNING," comes from the shoulder sleeve insignia of the 25th Infantry Division. Units are entitled to select an official Special Designation, which the Center of Military History recognizes through a certificate signed by the Chief of Military History. For more information on Special Designations, see Section 5.



Shoulder sleeve
insignia of the
25th Infantry
Division

Organizational Changes

The main lineage entries are where a unit can find its outline history. These entries list the unit's organizational changes during its existence which include, but are not limited to, activations, inactivations, and previous designations. For Army National Guard (ARNG) and Army Reserve units, this section also includes mobilizations and location changes. Every entry on the lineage certificate must be documented by an official source in Organizational History Division files, such as Permanent Orders, Mobilization and Demobilization Permanent Orders, Department of the Army General Orders, and Army National Guard Organizational Authorities, just to name a few.

Campaign Participation Credit

CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

World War II
Central Pacific
Guadalcanal
Northern Solomons
Luzon

Korean War
UN Defensive
UN Offensive
CCF Intervention
First UN Counteroffensive
CCF Spring Offensive
UN Summer-Fall Offensive
Second Korean Winter
Korea, Summer-Fall 1952
Third Korean Winter
Korea, Summer 1953

Campaign Participation Credit from Lineage (CMH)

Campaign Participation Credit represents the official named campaigns in which a particular unit served. The unit's flag or guidon carries a streamer for each campaign listed on a unit's lineage. The streamer uses the same ribbon as the soldiers' campaign medals, with each conflict having its own design. Not every deployment or operation is part of an official Army campaign; peacekeeping or humanitarian missions, for example, are not represented with campaign streamers.

A unit can also earn credit for participation in unnamed campaigns, which honor its engagement in a significant action that did not fall within the geographical or chronological scope of a named campaign (e.g., Pennsylvania 1863; Champagne 1918). World War II units present in a theater of operation but not in a named campaign received theater credit ("European-African-Middle Eastern Theater, Streamer without inscription" and "Asiatic-Pacific Theater, Streamer without inscription"). For more on Campaign Participation Credit, see Section 7.

Arrowhead

World War II

- * **Algeria-French Morocco**
(with arrowhead)
- * **Tunisia**
- * **Sicily (with arrowhead)**
- * **Normandy (with arrowhead)**

Campaign Credit with Arrowhead (*CMH*)

Some lineages feature campaigns that include a “(with arrowhead)” designation at the end of the listing. This denotes that the streamer should have an arrowhead embroidered on it. The arrowhead is a heraldic device added to streamers to indicate the unit participated in an assault landing for that campaign. The assault landing can be either amphibious or airborne. Examples include:

- Sicily (with arrowhead)
- Normandy (with arrowhead)
- Leyte (with arrowhead)



Arrowhead
Assault
Landing
Device
(*TIOH*)

Asterisks and the Earned Honor Device

World War II

- * **Algeria-French Morocco**
(with arrowhead)
- * **Tunisia**
- * **Sicily (with arrowhead)**
- * **Normandy (with arrowhead)**
- * **Northern France**
- * **Rhineland**
- * **Ardenes-Alsace**
- * **Central Europe**

Asterisks and the Earned Honor Device (CMH)

Some combat arms units' lineages include campaigns listed with an asterisk. This denotes that the streamer should have an Earned Honor Device embroidered on it. The Earned Honor Device was added to combat arms lineages when the Combat Arms Regimental System (CARS) was implemented in 1957. The Earned Honor Device shows the campaigns in which a specific battalion of the regiment participated versus the campaigns in which other battalions participated. For a detailed explanation of CARS, see Section 9.



Laurel Wreath of
the Earned Honor
Device (TIOH)

Decorations

DECORATIONS

	Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1969
	Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered IRAQ 2006-2007
	Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered IRAQ 2008-2009
2012	Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered SOUTHWEST ASIA 2010-
1945	Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered 17 OCTOBER 1944 TO 4 JULY
	Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered MASAN-CHINJU
	Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered MUNSAN-NI
1968	Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1966-
1970	Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1968-
	Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1966-1970

Decorations (CMH)

There are two general types of unit decorations—U.S. decorations and foreign decorations. Foreign unit decorations date to World War I. U.S. unit decorations have only been awarded since World War II. Most, but not all, unit decorations have an accompanying streamer. Most streamer inscriptions include an event, period of service, or both. Decoration streamers may also have an Earned Honor Device embroidered with a similar function as with campaign streamers. An example of a decoration without a streamer is “Cited in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army for action in the Ardennes.” The entry does not contain the words “Streamer embroidered,” as others do. The decorations listed on a unit’s lineage also show what is authorized for temporary wear on a soldier’s Army Service Uniform (see Section 14). For more on Decorations, see Section 7.

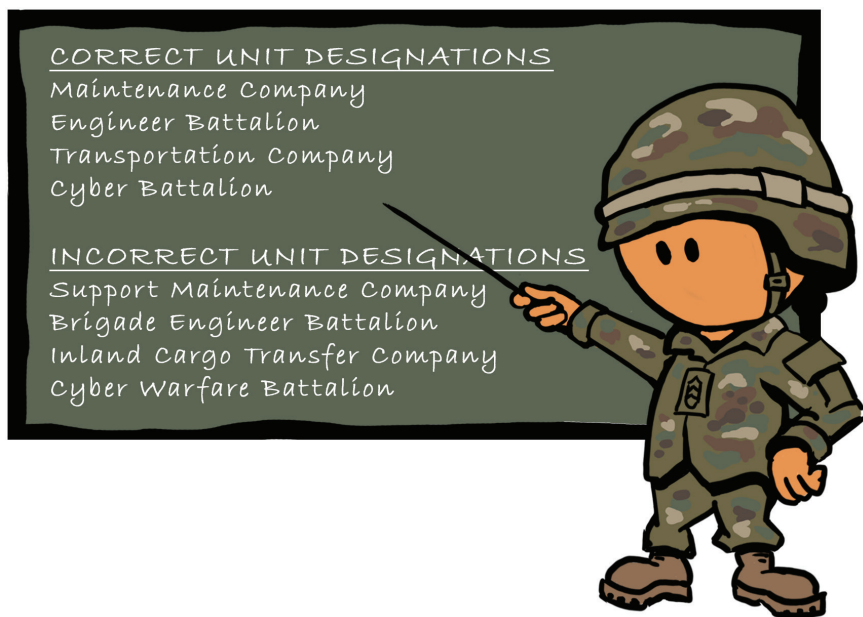
SECTION 3

OFFICIAL UNIT DESIGNATION, NOT FUNCTIONAL DESIGNATION

Army units sometimes use unit designations that do not match their actual official unit designations, which leads to misunderstandings about the official designations of those units. Before the 1950s, official Army unit designations often identified specific functions (e.g., Quartermaster Bread Bakery Company or Quartermaster Refrigeration Company, rather than simply Quartermaster Company). This system necessitated frequent changes of official unit designations to match changes in units' specific functions.

Today, official designations of MTOE units are not intended to identify units' specific types or functions but to provide a brief, consistent basic identification that avoids the need for frequent redesignations. There is often a difference between a unit's MTOE title (which indicates a unit's specific type) and its official designation, which is intended to be brief. As stated in Army Regulation (AR) 220-5, *Designation, Classification, and Change in Status of Units*, "The designation of an MTOE unit usually consists of a number, a branch or function [i.e., Infantry, Engineer, Quartermaster, Support] and a level of command [i.e., Brigade Combat Team, Brigade, Battalion, Company, Detachment]." Therefore, the official designation of a Quartermaster Company includes only the unit's number and "Quartermaster Company," NOT "Quartermaster Water Purification Company" or "Quartermaster Mortuary Affairs Company." A Support Battalion's official designation includes only its number and "Support Battalion," NOT "Brigade Support Battalion," "Combat Sustainment Support Battalion," or "Division Sustainment Support Battalion."

Some designations have two or more parts that include a numbered or named element of the parent unit. Full official designations of brigade combat teams of divisions and battalions of regiments include the division or regiment, as in "2d Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division" or "3d Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment." Sometimes the battalion is named, not numbered, such as "Military Intelligence Battalion,



Correct and incorrect examples of official Army unit designations

75th Ranger Regiment,” “Support Squadron, 2d Cavalry Regiment,” or “Support Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces Regiment.”

For most of the Army’s history, the regiment was the basic echelon of association. When referring to a unit, everyone assumed the echelon was regiment and there was no need to restate it. Unit designations were written, for example, as “3d Infantry,” with “regiment” implied but not stated. Since the late 1950s, however, numerous transformations and reorganizations have been made so that “regiment” was no longer assumed. Consequently, starting on 1 October 2005, the Army added “Regiment” as an official part of a written echelon for combat arms regiments. They are now designated as __ Battalion/Squadron, __ (Branch) Regiment. For example, 1st Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment.

Some Army branches use specific standardized echelons such as Medical units designated as “Hospital Center” or “Field Hospital.” In 2015, the Chief of Staff of the Army ordered that certain Sustainment Brigades be assigned to divisions and include the name of the division in their official

unit designations (e.g., 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade). Also, when a unit's only organic elements consist of Headquarters and/or Special Troops elements (and not subordinate lettered elements), its full official designation generally includes those elements, such as "Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 176th Medical Brigade" or "Headquarters and Special Troops Battalion, 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade."

Per AR 220-5 Section (2-3)(d)(1), "When further identification of the type of unit is desirable, additional descriptive words may be added parenthetically," following a unit's official designation. However, "Where the designation includes a parenthetical identification, that portion not in parentheses is the official designation." A unit may use a parenthetical identification such as "359th Transportation Company (Inland Cargo Transfer)" or "218th Medical Detachment (Veterinary Services)," but these units' official designations remain "359th Transportation Company" and "218th Medical Detachment."

SECTION 4

BASICS ON UNIT NUMBERS

What can you tell about a unit just by looking at its number? A lot, if you know the code. When the United States entered World War I in 1917, the Army first implemented the current system of numbering blocks. The Regular Army already had its numbering block with unit designations beginning at number one. National Guard units still carried state designations, such as the 1st Infantry, Pennsylvania National Guard, and the 2d Infantry, Texas National Guard. With the mobilization of the National Guard for the war, having so many like-named units was not feasible. At the same time, the United States was raising a third component through the Selective Service System, the National Army, comprising 500,000 soldiers. All these units needed a sensible numbering system. To this end, the War College Division of the Army General Staff devised a numbering scheme for divisions, brigades, and regiments that would indicate the component to which the unit belonged (Regular Army, National Guard, or National Army) just by its number.

Numbers Across Components

In 1917, the War Department published a series of General Orders implementing the number block system that can still be seen today. The system was first laid out for divisions, brigades, and regiments, but very quickly was expanded to include non-combat arms branches. In this system, the Regular Army, National Guard, and the National Army each has a separate series with the first number in the series as indicated in the table on the following page. The regimental numbering blocks eventually were applied to all branches and echelons below regiment (*Table 1*).

TABLE 1—Numbers Across Components

	DIVISION	BRIGADE			REGIMENT			
		INF	FA	CAV	INF	FA	CAV	ENG
REGULAR ARMY	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
NATIONAL GUARD	26	51	51	51	101	101	101	101
NATIONAL ARMY (ARMY RESERVE)	76	151	151	151	301	301	301	301

The National Defense Act of 1920 preserved the established system, stating “the names, numbers, and other designations, flags, and records of the divisions and subordinate units thereof that served in the World War between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, shall be preserved as such as far as practicable.” This directive helped advance the idea that units maintained the lineage and honors of past units. In 1921, the numbers allotted to the National Army were reallocated to the Organized Reserves, today designated as the Army Reserve.

Even though there have been many breaks to the system over the intervening years, the system is still observable. The number block system is also where the Army starts when assigning numbers to new branches such as Maneuver Enhancement Brigades, Cyber, and so on.

At the same time the numbering block system was being formalized, the Army also established the three components we have today. Under General Order 73, dated 7 August 1918, General Peyton C. March, Chief of Staff, stated, “This country has but one army—the United States Army. It includes all the land forces in the service of the United States.” With General Orders 5, dated 22 January 1921, the War Department designated the three components of the Army of the United States as the Regular Army, the National Guard, and the Organized Reserves. The Army National Guard split from the National Guard in 1948, and the Organized Reserves redesignated as the U.S. Army Reserve in 1952. Today, in addition to their official names, we also describe them as Compo 1 (Regular Army), Compo 2 (Army National Guard), and Compo 3 (Army Reserve).

History and Designations

A unit's lineage does not necessarily follow its designation. Back in 1920, the War Department directed that "the numerical designation of a troop unit does not in itself entitle that unit to inherit the history of any previous unit having that number." Just because a unit has the same or similar designation to a unit that previously existed, does not mean that the unit has the same history. Before researching a unit's history, check its Lineage and Honors Certificate for its official designation during the period of service in question.

An example of this is the 291st Engineer Combat Battalion, known for action in the Ardennes during World War II. In 1947, the Army redesignated the 291st as the 363d Engineer Combat Battalion. The World War II lineage, including their Presidential Unit Citation (Army) for MALMEDY, is now the 363d Engineer Battalion. To make things more confusing, in 1949, the Army established a new 291st Engineer Battalion that had no lineal connection to the World War II unit. One might ask, "why was the World War II 291st redesignated after the war?" In 1947, the Army allotted the World War II 291st to the Organized Reserves (today the Army Reserve), and redesignated it into the appropriate numbering block system, the 300s, discussed above.

Of course, not every Army unit can have an extensive history or a number having historic significance. All units were brand new at one point in their life and the Army periodically has new needs, such as Cyber. Soldiers can still take pride in this as they are breaking new ground and creating the history of what will one day be celebrated branches of the Army.

SECTION 5

SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

Special Designations are “nicknames” for units, such as the 1st Infantry Division being called “Big Red One.” Special designations can derive from a historical event, place, function, object, or person of significance to the unit. Once CMH approves a special designation for a unit, it is included on lineage certificates in parenthesis under the official unit designations. Once approved, no other unit can have the same special designation officially approved.

Types of Special Designations

There are two types of special designations: distinctive and traditional. A distinctive designation is the most common and is a nickname used by an organization for less than 30 years or one with which a unit wishes to become officially associated. A traditional designation is a nickname continuously used by a unit for the last 30 years or more. An example of a traditional designation is “The Old Guard,” used by the 3d Infantry Regiment. When requesting a traditional designation, units must provide evidence that the unit has used it continuously for 30 or more years.



Insignia of the 1st Division, 1918. The original “Big Red One” division insignia was designed and made in the field and significant variations existed from patch to patch. The design would be standardized after the end of the war. (*National Archives at College Park*)

Examples of Special Designations

Below are a few examples of approved special designations. Before submitting a request, review the complete list (available on the CMH website) to ensure a special designation is not already approved for another unit:

<https://history.army.mil/Unit-History/Special-Designations/>

The list is updated as often as possible when new special designations are assigned but is not necessarily current at all times.

HHBN, 1st Armored Division	OLD IRONSIDES
9th Infantry Regiment	MANCHU
10th Cavalry Regiment	BUFFALO SOLDIERS
29th Engineer Battalion	WAYFINDERS
60th Engineer Company	JUNGLE EATERS
103d Engineer Battalion	DANDY FIRST
HHC, 173d Airborne Brigade	SKY SOLDIERS

Eligibility

MTOE and TDA (Table of Distribution and Allowances) organizations can request special designations if they are authorized a flag or guidon, except battalions/squadrons of regiments that have an active regimental headquarters or lettered companies of battalions. Examples of regiments with active regimental headquarters are the 2d Cavalry Regiment or 75th Ranger Regiment. If an organic element, such as a lettered company, submits valid evidence of having used a special designation continuously for the last 50 years or more, a traditional designation can be approved without regard to any special designation already approved for its parent organization.

Most combat arms battalions or squadrons do not have active regimental headquarters. A battalion or squadron of a regiment that does not have a regimental headquarters, such as the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, is entitled to request a special designation at the battalion or squadron level. CMH instituted this policy change in 2022.

U.S. Army Regimental System (USARS) regiments are still entitled to have a regimental special designation as well, but the commanders of all active elements must agree on a single special designation before a



Before submitting a request, review the complete list to ensure a special designation is not already approved for another unit.

regimental level special designation can be approved. Therefore, battalions of USARS regiments can request a special designation at the battalion or squadron level, and all the battalions or squadrons of a regiment can together request a regimental special designation. For more information on USARS, see Section 9.

Requesting

Special designations submitted for approval should be drawn from the unit's heritage, be in good taste, and reflect positively on the unit, its soldiers, and the Army.

Units can request a special designation for approval by sending a memorandum signed by the commander to the U.S. Army Center of Military History (ATMH-FPO), 102 Fourth Avenue, Building 35, Collins Hall, Fort McNair, DC 20319-5060. ARNG units must send the memorandum through the National Guard Bureau. The memorandum needs to include a rationale for the requested special designation and may be accompanied by supporting evidence such as newspaper clippings, photographs, and applicable extracts from available unit histories, unit letterhead, and so forth. A sample request is in Annex 3.

Special Designations, Mottos, and Call Signs

Special designations, mottos, and call signs are often confused. Special designations are unit nicknames and will not appear on colors, flags, guidons, or other heraldic devices.

Mottos are controlled and approved by TIOH (see Section 14) and are a phrase a unit has chosen which captures its beliefs or ideals, such as the 8th Cavalry Regiment's motto "Honor and Courage." Mottos are a design element of a unit's Distinctive Unit Insignia and cannot change once approved and developed.

Call signs are used for field communication. They are unofficial and chosen by the unit commander or higher headquarters. Call signs are not tracked by any office in the Army.

SECTION 6

UNIT DAYS

Unit Days commemorate a significant event in the unit’s history, chosen by the unit as a special day of remembrance and celebration. A unit should select a date of historical significance to it, such as a battle it participated in, a unit decoration it received, or some other important event. Constitution and activation dates are considered administrative actions; usually, more significant events in a unit’s history are preferred for unit days (*Table 2*).

TABLE 2—Examples of Approved Unit Days

UNIT	UNIT DAY	IN COMMEMORATION OF...
1st Infantry Regiment	20 August	The unit’s participation in the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794
66th Armored Regiment	12 September	The day the regiment received its baptism of fire in France in 1918
80th Transportation Detachment	28 August	The Battle of Dan Chi 157, Republic of Vietnam, 27-28 August 1965, for which the unit was recognized with a PUC
United States Army Transportation Corps	31 July	Establishment of the Transportation Corps on 31 July 1942



Battle of Fallen Timbers, commemorated by the 1st Infantry Regiment with their Unit Day (CMH)

Eligibility

Any MTOE organization can request a Unit Day if it is authorized a flag or guidon, except battalions/squadrons of regiments that have an active regimental headquarters or lettered companies of battalions. Examples of regiments with an active regimental headquarters are the 2d Cavalry Regiment or 75th Ranger Regiment. TDA units with AA-level Unit Identification Codes (UICs) are also entitled to request official Unit Days.

Most combat arms battalions do not have active regimental headquarters. A battalion or squadron of a regiment that does not have a regimental headquarters, such as the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, is entitled to request a Unit Day at the battalion or squadron level. CMH instituted this policy change in 2022.



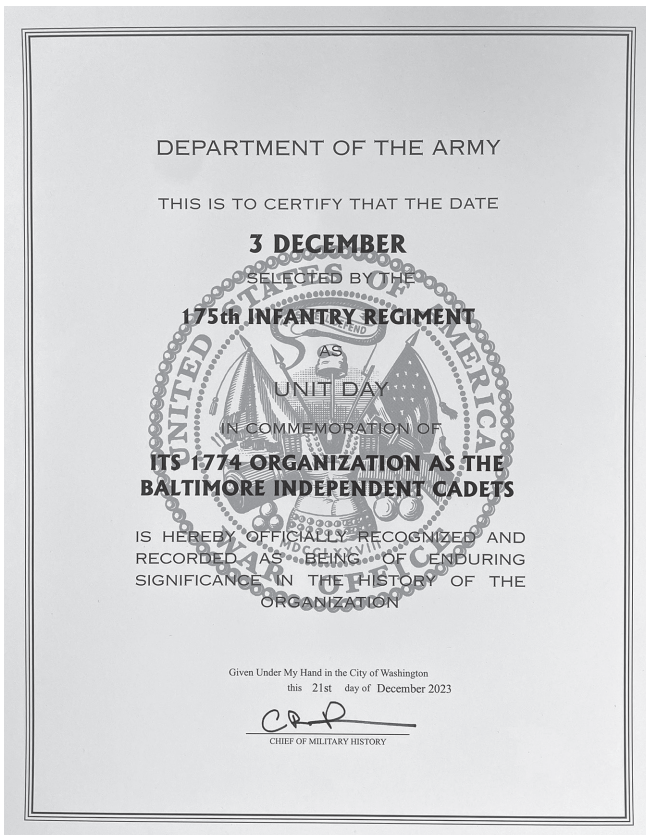
A Unit Day provides an opportunity for soldiers to celebrate the history of their organization.

Observance

A unit can observe its Unit Day with a training holiday and commemorate its history with ceremonies and activities that stress the unit's lineage, honors, heritage, and traditions, as well as personal accomplishments of former and current members. The Unit Day program may also feature such activities as parades, concerts, sports, picnics, and other competitive events.

Requesting

Units can request a Unit Day for approval by sending a memorandum signed by the unit commander to the U.S. Army Center of Military History (ATMH-FPO), 102 Fourth Avenue, Building 35, Collins Hall, Fort McNair, DC 20319-5060. ARNG units must send the memorandum through the National Guard Bureau. The memorandum must include the event being commemorated by the unit with its Unit Day as it is included on the certificate: “[DATE] is chosen by [UNIT DESIGNATION] as its Unit Day in Commemoration of [event provided by unit].” The unit may wish to provide a brief additional explanation of the significance of the chosen date to the unit. A sample request is in Annex 3.



Unit Day Certificate for the 175th Infantry Regiment (CMH)

SECTION 7

HONORS

Campaign Participation Credit

Campaign Participation Credit (CPC) recognizes a unit's participation in a named campaign rather than particular battles or specific unit deployments. Units are eligible for CPC if they deployed to a recognized combat zone during the designated period of the respective battle, campaign, or expedition. In some conflicts prior to World War II, unnamed campaigns were authorized. An unnamed campaign honors a unit's engagement in a significant action that did not fall within the geographical or chronological scope of a named campaign (e.g., Pennsylvania 1863; Champagne 1918). World War II units that were present in the theater of operation but not in a named campaign received Theater Credit ("European-African-Middle Eastern Theater, Streamer without inscription" and "Asiatic-Pacific Theater, Streamer without inscription").

CPC streamers are to be displayed on the unit's flag or guidon. Color and flag-sized streamers measure 3 feet long, and guidon-sized streamers 2 feet. More information on the criteria for CPC can be found in AR 600-8-22, *Military Awards*, Section IV, paragraph 7-17a. A list of the authorized U.S. Army campaigns can be found in Annex 1.

In past wars, such as World War II and the Korean War, the theater commander determined CPC. However, for the War on Terrorism, the Awards and Decorations Branch, U.S. Army Human Resources Command (HRC) determines CPC, which is usually published in the form of a Permanent Order or Department of the Army General Order. The Organizational History Division keeps track of campaigns once they are approved and part of the unit's history.

Decorations

On a Lineage and Honors Certificate, the Decorations section lists actions in which the unit and its personnel received an award for distinguishing themselves. The U.S. Army recognizes six categories of unit awards listed on a lineage certificate and displayed on its flag.

Presidential Unit Citation (PUC)* —The PUC, originally designated as the Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC), is awarded for extraordinary heroism by the unit for action against the enemy. It requires the same degree of valor as the Distinguished Service Cross does for individuals, and the length of the recognition period is not to extend over five days unless under unusual circumstances. There are sister service PUCs (i.e., the U.S. Navy) that can be awarded to Army units for display on the unit colors, and for recording on the unit's Lineage and Honors Certificate. Navy PUCs are usually awarded to Army units during operations with U.S. Marine Corps units. On the lineage, the service will be indicated in parentheses after the award name.

NORMANDY

Presidential Unit Citation (Army) (Air Force) (*TIOH*)

WONJU-HWACHON

Presidential Unit Citation (Navy) (*TIOH*)

Valorous Unit Award (VUA)* — The Army created the VUA during the Vietnam War to acknowledge acts of heroism that did not meet the criteria for a PUC but nevertheless deserved recognition. The VUA requires the same degree of valor as the Silver Star does for an individual. The recognition period should not extend over five days except in unusual circumstances.

TUY HOA

Valorous Unit Award (*TIOH*)

*Barring unusual circumstances, the PUC and VUA are reserved for units at or smaller than battalion size. However, several actions in World War II such as Bastogne and Bataan established a precedent for setting this rule aside for exceptional cases.

Meritorious Unit Commendation (MUC)—The War Department authorized the MUC in 1944 to recognize “superior performance of duty or outstanding devotion to duty, in the performance of exceptionally difficult tasks” of service units (i.e., usually noncombat). During World War II, it was called the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque. On 11 September 2001, the MUC authorization was expanded to all Army units for meritorious service against an enemy for six months. The Navy also has a version of the MUC that is awarded to Army units for display on unit colors and can be placed on the Lineage and Honors Certificate.



IRAQ 2007

Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army) (*TIOH*)



VIETNAM 1967-1969

Meritorious Unit Commendation (Navy) (*TIOH*)

Army Superior Unit Award (ASUA)—Created by the Secretary of the Army on 8 April 1985, the ASUA recognizes meritorious performance of a unit in peace time or humanitarian activities. Generally, for this award service length falls between 30 days and one year.



SINAI 1985

Army Superior Unit Award (*TIOH*)

Sister Service Awards—Other branches of the U.S. military often decorate Army units with their respective unit awards. These can be listed on a unit's Lineage and Honors Certificate and can be displayed on its colors. These include such awards as the Navy Unit Commendation and the Air and Space Outstanding Unit Award.

A ribbon with a green center and blue, red, and yellow borders.

PANMUNJOM

Navy Unit Commendation (*TIOH*)

A ribbon with a dark blue center and red, white, and blue borders.

LIBYA 1967

Air and Space Outstanding Unit Award (*TIOH*)

Foreign Awards—Foreign militaries and nations have recognized heroic actions by Army units fighting alongside or in defense of that nation. The different foreign awards have different requirements and authorizations; please see AR 600–8–22 for more information. Most foreign decorations are awarded for action against an enemy force.

Foreign decorations and their streamers: Since 1918, the Army has authorized foreign awards for display. Some are authorized for temporary wear, which means a soldier can wear them as long as he or she is assigned to the unit that earned them. (See the Army Uniform Policy Branch information in Section 14.)

A ribbon with a green center and blue, red, and yellow borders.

LORRAINE

French Croix de Guerre, World War I (*AR 840-10*)

A ribbon with a red center and blue, green, and yellow borders.

NORMANDY

French Croix de Guerre, World War II (*AR 840-10*)

A ribbon with a yellow center and green, blue, and red borders.

FRANCE

French Medaille Militaire (*AR 840-10*)



BASTOGNE

Belgian Croix de Guerre (AR 840-10)

LUXEMBOURG

Luxembourg Croix de Guerre (AR 840-10)

17 OCTOBER 1944 TO 4 JULY 1945

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (AR 840-10)

ITALY

Croce al Merito di Guerra (Italy) (AR 840-10)

NIJMEGEN 1944

Military Order of William (Netherlands) (AR 840-10)

FRANCE

Ordem da Torre e Espada (Portugal) (AR 840-10)



MUNSAN - NI

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation (AR 840-10)

KOREA

Chryssoun Aristion Andrias (Greece) (AR 840-10)



VIETNAM 1968

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry (AR 840-10)



VIETNAM 1967

Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions (AR 840-10)

Additional Information about Honors

- Not all honors listed on a unit lineage have streamers. One of the most common being “Cited in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army.” An example lineage entry reads “Cited in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army for action in the Ardennes.” Note that “Streamer embroidered” is not included in the entry the way it is for other awards to show there is not a corresponding streamer, and “the Ardennes” is not in all capital letters.
- If two or more companies representing at least a third of a battalion or regiment fight in a campaign, the entire unit is awarded campaign credit. If just one company, troop, or battery in a battalion earned credit for a campaign, only that company, troop, or battery can display the campaign as an additional honor. If a lettered company earns an honor on its own, the Lineage and Honors Certificate will list it as “Additionally entitled to” the award or campaign. The company is entitled to display that honor. The parent organization does not display the honor.
- Lineage and Honors Certificates represent what units achieve as full units. However, there are many instances when less than a full unit participates in a campaign or receives an award. In these cases, the unit is listed as “Detachment, [unit designation]” when cited. Campaign credit and awards earned by detachments of a unit are not listed on a unit’s lineage but can be found in the approving Department of the Army General Orders. Only the campaign credit and decorations awarded to the full unit are listed. The soldiers who served in these detachments are entitled to have the unit award listed in their personnel files though.
- Individual units must be listed on an award by name to receive recognition. The presence of a higher headquarters on an award does not necessarily mean that its subordinate units are also recognized.
- CMH determines decoration streamer inscriptions, which are generally based on geographic location and dates. The higher the decoration, the more specific the location inscribed. For example: The PUC earned by the 115th Infantry on 6 June 1944 is

embroidered ST. LAURENT-SUR-MER, while an ASUA streamer only reflects the years of recognition.

- The Organizational History Division frequently gets the question “How can we get copies of our awards?” The answer will depend on what the unit is actually seeking:
 1. New awards certificates for display. New certificates can be requested from Awards and Decorations Branch, U.S. Army Human Resources Command (see Section 14). The Awards and Decorations Branch can only prepare certificates for U.S. Army awards and not those from sister services or foreign governments. Providing them a copy of the unit’s most recent Lineage and Honors Certificate is helpful.

OR

2. Copies of the actual written citation for awards. Copies can be requested from the Organizational History Division. Please be aware that not all awards have written citations. Many of the orders for MUCs for World War II just state the unit designations and recognition dates. Most War on Terrorism era citations appear in the “justification” paragraph of the HRC orders first authorizing the awards.
- An earned-honors device, represented on the streamer as a laurel wreath, is only awarded to combat arms units when the headquarters element is recognized.
 - The Organizational History Division does not track Joint Awards, and those awards are not authorized for Army units or display on the unit’s colors.
 - See Section 14, Army Uniform Policy Branch, for information on wearing unit awards including permanent and temporary wear. Also review the most recent DA PAM 670–1, *Guide to the Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia*, for the official authorities.

SECTION 8

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY FILE

An Organizational History File (OHF) is a unit's own documentary record of its history, traditions, and accomplishments. It is separate from the unit's operational records. The OHF provides material of meaningful and historical value to present and future members of the unit, which can be used to instill unit pride and esprit de corps. These files will be used by future members of the unit who will be unfamiliar with the people and places of today. No Army agency systematically collects detailed histories of every Army unit, so each unit is responsible for preserving its own history. Remember, the unit commander and not the higher headquarters bears ultimate responsibility for unit history. Commanders may delegate this authority, but they cannot push it up the chain. See AR 870-5, *Military History: Responsibilities, Policies, and Procedures*, Section 4-6(d), for guidance in creating an OHF.

Units should create an OHF immediately upon organization. The unit may contact the U.S. Army Center of Military History to request an updated Lineage and Honors Certificate containing an outline history of the unit (including any previous designations). If the unit has been active in the past, there may be a file already in storage. The unit's historical officer should contact the U.S. Army



The unit commander bears ultimate responsibility for unit history.



17th Engineer Battalion Organizational History File (CMH-FPO)

Center of Military History (usarmy.mcnaair.cmh.mbx.answers@army.mil) to determine if a previous OHF exists (which may be stored under the unit's previous designation).

The OHF should include copies of the unit's activation documents, including activation orders, ceremonial programs, installation news articles, and photographs.

The OHF will include the following:

- Statements of primary and secondary missions
- Permanent orders that capture MTOE and TDA changes to include reorganization, change in status, location changes, etc. ARNG units should include relevant state orders.
- Periodic summaries of unit activities and achievements
- Lists or documentation of significant unit events, preferably by year
- Deployment/redeployment orders and rosters of deployed personnel

- Copies of letters and orders concerning changes in unit status (activation, inactivation, redesignation, reorganization, etc.) For ARNG and Army Reserve units, include documentation of entry into and release from active federal/military service.

When applicable, OHFs should include:

- Unit Histories and Annual Histories
- Copies of the most recent Lineage and Honors Certificate or Statement of Service
- Information on organizational flags, coats of arms, and insignia
- Citations and certificates (unframed) for unit decorations
- Newspaper and magazine clippings, with sources and dates
- Unframed photographs, pictures, certificates, letters, and programs, identified with dates, names, places, events, and other relevant details
- Names of commanders, sergeants major, and first sergeants, with photos and inclusive dates of command
- Copies of any oral history interviews (media and/or transcripts) conducted with unit personnel by combat historians.

In creating your unit's file, please:

- Caption photos with full names of the persons in the picture and a description of the event, location, or whatever the photo depicts.
- Document important events in multiple formats, because electronic media may deteriorate with time or become obsolete. For example, supplement a video-recorded ceremony with an event program, captioned photographs, and any relevant news items.

SECTION 9

COMBAT ARMS REGIMENTAL SYSTEM (CARS) AND U.S. ARMY REGIMENTAL SYSTEM (USARS)

A regiment serves as an administrative and ceremonial organization, while its battalions function as its tactical elements. Some regiments fulfill both roles; the headquarters exercises administrative and tactical control of the battalions or squadrons. Before 1957, most Army regiments were both tactical and administrative. They usually consisted of two or three battalions, with a Headquarters or Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Troop, or Battery; supply and medical elements and a weapons company in some combat arms regiments. During World War II and the Korean War, the Army temporarily reorganized some regiments into tactical formations known as regimental combat teams, combining infantry, armor, and artillery to make a flexible, potent tactical formation. The Army permanently broke up other regiments into smaller, tactical battalions or squadrons. Based on this experience, the Army decided to reorganize the combat arms regiments into battalions or battle groups between 1957 and 1960. Known as the Combat Arms Regimental System, or CARS, the reorganization inactivated regimental headquarters and created new battalions from cadres taken from the lettered companies of existing battalions. In most cases, the old Company A, Battery A, or Troop A became Headquarters Company, Troop, or Battery of a new 1st Battalion or Squadron. Company B became the headquarters of 2d Battalion or Squadron, and so on. This means that the 2d Battalion or Squadron of today does not perpetuate the 2d Battalion or Squadron of World War II or Korea; it perpetuates Company or Troop B of the old regiment, which was part of the 1st Battalion. The reorganization under CARS enabled the Army to keep elements of regiments active during expansions and drawdowns and created a more flexible fighting force.

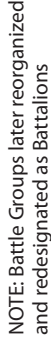
With CARS, the Army intended to preserve the rich history and esprit de corps of the regiment while it reorganized to a battalion-based army. Regimental headquarters inactivated and no longer exercised tactical control over battalions or squadrons. Battalion and squadron headquarters now took on the administrative and ceremonial role of the regiment. In the

Army National Guard, the regiments reorganized using existing battalions and squadrons. Instead of inactivating the regimental headquarters, the different companies, troops, and batteries of the regiment reorganized to form one or more battle groups, so the former elements combined into a new organization. That is why ARNG Combat Arms lineages are only prepared at the regimental level.

Starting in 1986, the Army introduced the United States Army Regimental System, or USARS. The concept originally called for combat arms soldiers to enlist in a single regiment. Upon completion of initial training, the soldier would pick a regiment with which to affiliate and remain with during his or her enlistment. While this side of USARS did not last, the practice of affiliation stuck. Soldiers now have the option of affiliating with a regiment in which they have honorably served. If the soldier is in a combat support or combat service support unit, he or she may affiliate with the branch, or whole corps regiment, which is the same thing. An example of this is the Corps of Engineers which, for USARS purposes is referred to as the Engineer Regiment. Tactical regiments still exist, but when most soldiers think of a regiment, it is the active battalion or squadron of a USARS regiment originally organized under CARS.

What does all this mean for lineages of units under CARS/USARS? General Hancock and his board figured out a lot of the details back in 1877. If an Infantry regiment earned an honor before 1957, that means that all the companies in the regiment earned it, unless they were inactive at the time or unless they were intentionally left off the award because they were elsewhere. If enough individual companies were present to represent a battalion, or one third of the regiment's total strength, then the regiment received the honor. If a USARS battalion perpetuates a company, troop, or battery that received the campaign credit or award, a Regular Army Lineage and Honors Certificate will place an asterisk next to the honor indicating an *earned honor*, meaning the battalion earned it. The streamer will have a laurel wreath or Earned Honor Device. The same applies to a separate regimental company, troop or battery. If there is no such device, but it is still on the lineage, that means the regiment earned it and as an active element of the regiment, soldiers display or wear the honor as applicable. Honors for Armored, Air Defense Artillery, Cavalry, and Field Artillery Regiments can be more difficult to trace, but the basic principle

Pre-1957 Regiment



is the same. In the Army National Guard, regimental honors are shared. Because the regimental elements intermingled during the CARS reorganization, the Earned Honor Device is not used on their lineages.

SECTION 10

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD LINEAGES

The Organizational History Division historians will be the first to tell you that the Army National Guard lineages are done differently. But how are they different and how did that come to be? As with many things in the Army, it evolved over hundreds of years. Understanding a little bit about the history of the militia and National Guard helps to explain why this is so.

The oldest component of the U.S. Army, the Army National Guard comprises a part of the organized militia of the several states and territories. All fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands have a National Guard headquarters. Some states maintain an organized militia that is wholly state-funded and controlled, but the Army National Guard is organized, armed, and equipped at least partly at federal expense, and its units and members are federally recognized. The Army National Guard in inactive duty status remains under the control of its governor.

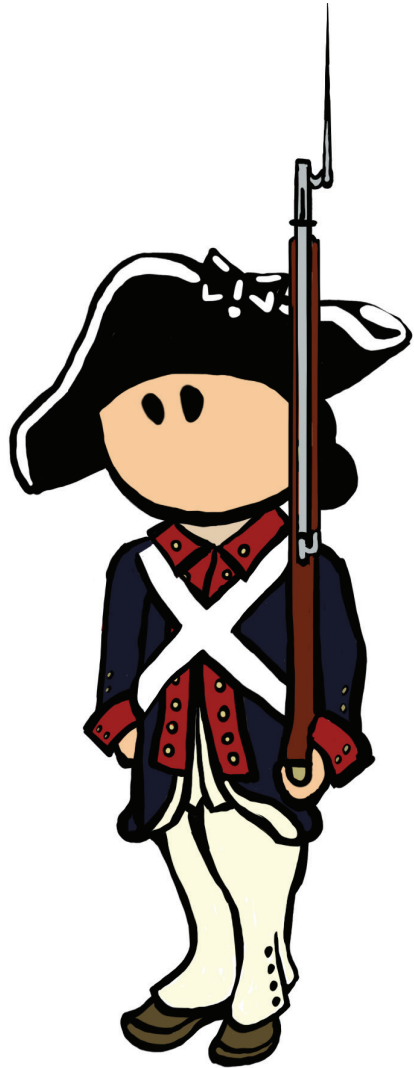
Unlike the Regular Army and the Army Reserve, the National Guard is a constitutionally mandated structure. The sixteenth clause of Section 8, Article I, of the United States Constitution gives Congress the power to “provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions,” and provides for its organization, equipment, and discipline. The Constitution does not actually authorize its organization.

That authority comes from common law precedents that require military service from some parts of the population, and that date back centuries before the founding of the United States, the organization of the Army, and even your Sergeant Major’s first enlistment. (Well, maybe not that far.) Most historians agree that the first legal precedent for the militia dates to the Assize of Arms of 1181. This assize, or law, required every English subject to possess and bear arms in the service of the nation. In 1285, King Edward I’s Statute of Winchester required every subject between ages 15 and 60 to keep and bear arms to help enforce law and order. As time went on, technology improved, and war became more complex, so did the laws.

By 1775, twelve of the thirteen colonies required service in the militia, a practice that the new state governments maintained after the Revolution. Pennsylvania was the exception, but passed a militia law in 1777. In 1792, Congress passed a Militia Act which synthesized the previous state laws and provided a basic framework for the militia. It also extended the power to call forth the militia to the president and stipulated that if a state's militia refused to help suppress an insurrection, or needed more support, the president could call upon other states' militia for assistance.

At the time of its passage, every state required militia service in some form, either as part of the unorganized militia, which was the pool of eligible citizens subject to periodic training and mobilization, or the organized militia, which drilled more frequently and kept better uniforms, weapons, and equipment, mostly at its own expense.

While its pre-1903 history might include a period of service with the unorganized militia, a National Guard unit must trace its post-1903 history through a unit of the National Guard. To most people, the word militia conjures up an image of a crusty rustic warrior like John Lawrence Burns, the Gettysburg resident who, on 1 July 1863, took up a musket and marched to drive the rebel invaders out of



In 1792, the Militia Act provided a basic framework for the militia.



John L. Burns (*Library of Congress*)



Senator and Col. Charles Dick
(Ohio Army National Guard)

his town. In doing so, Burns, fought as a member of the unorganized militia to repel the enemy invaders and suppress insurrection. The word militia also conjures up the image of citizen-soldiers of the organized militia, such as the 7th Infantry Regiment, New York National Guard, marching off to war in splendid uniforms in front of waving crowds. Both images are accurate; they simply portray different classifications of militia, organized and unorganized, serving in different roles.

During the nineteenth century, many states followed the lead of New York and redesignated their organized militia as

the National Guard, which, no offense to John L. Burns, had a less rustic, more polished sound to it, and evoked the image of elite units like the 7th Infantry Regiment. The unorganized militia mostly passed into disuse as a ready reserve. The requirement remained on the books as the legal precedent for a draft, and to require citizens to aid civil authorities to enforce laws and suppress insurrections when needed, but the United States would no longer mobilize large bodies of militia as it had in Burns' day.

In 1903, Ohio Senator Charles W. F. Dick, an Ohio National Guardsman and veteran of the War with Spain, sponsored a new militia law, titled *An Act to Promote the Efficiency of the Militia*, better known as the Dick Act. This law and its subsequent amendments created the modern National Guard. The Dick Act required states to maintain units under tables of organization patterned on those of the Regular Army, and to maintain Regular Army standards of training and proficiency. The act provided federal property to the Guard, as well as pay for annual training. The 1916 National Defense Act required senior Army advisers to inspect



7th Infantry Regiment, New York National Guard, 1899 (*Library of Congress*)

and federally recognize National Guard units. Since 1922, a National Guard unit must be federally recognized, or it is not a legally constituted part of the Army, and cannot legally possess federally issued property, including colors, guidons, and streamers. Units must also have federal recognition to receive Campaign Participation Credit and unit awards.

Under the Dick Act, the Army could not call up National Guard units for service outside the United States. In 1916, National Guard units mustered into service to patrol the Rio Grande, but they could not legally cross into Mexico. The few guardsmen who accompanied Brig. Gen. John J. Pershing on the Punitive Expedition served as individual volunteers. That is why there are many Army National Guard units that show service in 1916 and 1917, but none are entitled to display a campaign streamer for service in the Punitive Expedition. This limitation posed a problem in 1917 when the United States entered World War I. As a solution, Congress drafted the Guard in its entirety on 5 August 1917. Entire units mobilized together and redesignated under the National Army System (see Section 4, Basics on Unit Numbers). The

7th Infantry, New York National Guard, for example, reorganized as the 107th Infantry, an element of the 27th Division. Demobilized in 1919, the 107th reorganized under its national designation again, and drilled as part of the Army's federally recognized strategic reserve. When not in federal service, governors could still order units to aid civil authorities in the event of unrest or natural disaster. Both types of service fall under the traditional mission of the National Guard. Periods of state service are important but are not a part of the unit's federal mission, are not tracked by the U.S. Army Center of Military History, and do not appear on a Lineage and Honors Certificate.

All the reorganizations, redesignations, and periods of federal service created much confusion when recording a National Guard unit's history. In response, on 4 March 1920, General March issued a circular in which he declared that the numeric designation of a unit did not entitle it to the history of any unit with the same number. The history of a unit was to be traced through all of its reorganizations and redesignations. The 107th Infantry, for example, reorganized as the 207th Coast Artillery on 1 August 1940, but kept its history dating to 1806. National Guard units still trace their history through the continuity of personnel drilling in a legally constituted unit, in a specific geographic location which is what makes their lineages different from the Regular Army and Army Reserve lineages.

Subsequent conflicts witnessed additional periods of federal service, and further complications to National Guard units' histories. During 1940 and 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued a series of Executive Orders that inducted the Guard into federal service. After World War II, units again inactivated, reorganized, and received federal recognition. Effective 1 October 1948, the National Guard split into the Army National Guard and Air National Guard.

The National Guard again mobilized during the Korean War in 1950. To maintain a force at home for the National Guard's traditional mission, Congress created the National Guard of the United States (NGUS) under Public Law 461 in 1952. The law empowered the president to create a duplicate for every National Guard unit in federal service for up to five years. These units carried the same designations as those mobilized, and drilled at the deployed units' armories, but carried the addition of "NGUS" after

their designations. When the mobilized units reverted to state control, the NGUS units automatically consolidated with the original unit, and the National Guard withdrew federal recognition from them.

Since the end of the Korean War, National Guard units train and deploy similarly to Regular Army and Army Reserve units; however, an Army National Guard unit must be federally recognized at the time of its deployment, as federal law requires. Today, the National Guard Bureau no longer requires a new federal inspection after each deployment, nor does it create duplicate units during periods of federal service.

SECTION 11

HOW TO REQUEST A LINEAGE AND HONORS CERTIFICATE FOR MTOE UNITS

An organization's lineage establishes the continuity of the unit despite various changes in designation or status, thereby certifying its entitlement to honors, as well as heraldic items, organizational historical property, Organizational History Files, and other tangible assets.

When requesting a unit lineage, remember the following points:

- Active MTOE organizations are entitled to Lineage and Honors Certificates at the AA UIC level (WXXXAA).
- Organic elements, such as a lettered company of a battalion (Company A), a detachment or team that has a DUIC (WXXXA0; WXXX1), or Special Troops Battalions organic to Divisional Sustainment Brigades are not entitled to their own lineages but are included in the lineage of their parent unit.
- Some lineages are prepared at the regimental level. This applies to Cavalry Regiments, Armored Cavalry Regiments, Army National Guard regiments, and training regiments. This means that battalions or squadrons of these regiments do not receive a separate battalion or squadron lineage but are included in the regimental level lineage.
- Because lineages are considered unit property, higher headquarters are not allowed to request lineages for their subordinate units.

MTOE units should send a request memo to begin the process of obtaining a Lineage and Honors Certificate. The memo should include the units full, official designation, UIC, and a good mailing address. Units should send request memos to U.S. Army Center of Military History, ATTN: ATMH-FPO, 102 Fourth Avenue, Building 35, Fort McNair, DC 20319-5060. Memos can be emailed to usarmy.mcnair.cmh.mbx.answers@army.mil. Army National Guard units need to send the request through the National Guard Bureau. See Annex 3 for sample request memos.



The 214th Public Affairs Detachment, excited about its Lineage and Honors Certificate (*Courtesy of the 214th Public Affairs Detachment*)

TDA units are not entitled to Lineage and Honors Certificates, but the CMH can provide historical background information. Because TDA units do not require as much documentation, CMH generally has limited material on them. More information on TDA units can be found in Section 12. There is an exception to TDA units receiving lineage for those that directly conduct training. See Section 13 for more on this exception.

As both Lineage and Honors Certificates and historical background on TDA units require extensive research, the process takes time. There is typically a high volume of requests; providing lineages or background on short notice (less than 30 business days) is not always possible. Advanced planning is prudent.

SECTION 12

TABLE OF DISTRIBUTION AND ALLOWANCES (TDA) UNITS

The Army divides its organizations between those that perform specific tasks and tactical units operating in the field. During the nineteenth century, the Army called these categories staff and line. The staff consisted of various departments and corps, including The Adjutant General's Department, Medical Department, Corps of Engineers, and the like. The line consisted of cavalry, artillery, and infantry regiments. The staff may be considered the predecessors of today's Table of Distribution and Allowances (TDA) units, while the line may be thought of as today's Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) units.

Regular Army and Army Reserve MTOE units can inactivate and reactivate as the Army's needs change. Army National Guard units remain active through a succession of continuously drilling officers and enlisted soldiers in a federally recognized unit in a given location (see Section 10). When a Regular Army or Army Reserve MTOE unit is inactive it is still maintained on the Rolls of the Army, but in an inactive state. When the Army requires an additional infantry battalion, for example, it reactivates an inactive battalion with a distinguished history from the Rolls of the Army to enhance the esprit de corps of the new unit by reminding soldiers of what came before. Soldiers learn about, and are hopefully inspired by, their predecessors' deeds through the Lineage and Honors Certificate, which is maintained for them by the Organizational History Division while inactive.

TDA units organize to perform specific missions and are discontinued and removed from the Rolls of the Army once their assigned missions are accomplished. TDA missions fall under the staff category, and many must be accomplished in peace as well as war as they include tasks such as planning, training, force management, mobilization, or the day-to-day management of the Army. Unlike MTOE organizations, TDA organizations are considered nondeployable, even when organized overseas as their missions are normally tied to a geographic location. The personnel of TDA organizations can include military, civilian, or a combination of both. As TDA units are activated for a

specific mission and not inactivated and reactivated the way MTOE units are, the Organizational History Division does not maintain lineages for TDAs because the units should be maintaining their own history as they remain active without interruption. TDAs can keep track of their history with the assistance of an Organizational History File (see Section 8). Units are also required to maintain the records of their organization to comply with the Federal Records Act; see AR 24-400-2, *Army Records Management Program* and DA PAM 25-403, *Army Guide to Record Keeping*, for requirements and implementation.

Although the Organizational History Division does not prepare Lineage and Honors Certificates for TDAs, it can provide historical background on them. For more information, see Section 11.

TDA units have descriptive unit designations and include “U.S. Army,” apart from a few notable exceptions such as the United States Military Academy. Per AR 220-5, the designations of both MTOE and TDA units at the AA UIC level must be approved by the U.S. Army Center of Military History. TDA units are not designated with a number with the exception of specified units of training centers, specified units in the active Army training base, specified Army Reserve training units, ARNG regional training institutes, and ARNG troop commands. See Section 13 for more on TDA training units.

All units are important to the Army mission, but not all units are entitled to Lineage and Honors Certificates, the same heraldic items, or even a designation commonly associated with a given echelon of command. Field grade officers often command small units that are authorized a guidon and nothing else, because the unit mission requires the rank. An officer



The Army loves you.

of the same rank may command a battalion, a group, or a separate regiment that has more or fewer heraldic items. Just because your particular unit is not authorized a lineage, color, or Distinctive Unit Insignia does not mean the Army does not love you.

SECTION 13

TDA TRAINING REGIMENTS AND LINEAGE

The Army grants units that directly conduct training an exception to policy for TDA unit designations. These TDA units receive numerical designations and lineage and honors. Comprising most of these TDAs are training support divisions and their subordinate units. These include both U.S. Army Reserve and Regular Army units, all of which carry lineage and honors. These units first started their training mission in the late 1950s as MTOE training units. As the Army transitioned to a more flexible structure at the beginning of this century, the U.S. Army Reserve units were reorganized as TDA. The Army granted the exception to policy to maintain their MTOE numbers and lineages to allow training units to use their lineages and flags to teach soldiers the importance of Army history and heritage and how that builds esprit de corps in units.

Today the divisions are designated as ____ Training Division and carry the lineage of the World War II infantry division of the same number. The battalions that fall under these division are designated as ____ Battalion, ____ Regiment. Note that there is no branch included. The training battalions' official designations do not include the current type of training the battalion preforms, allowing this to change without the need to redesignate units. The lineages for these units are prepared at the regimental level rather than the battalion level. Most, but not all, of the training regiments perpetuate infantry regiments, while some perpetuate field artillery brigades.

The Army National Guard also has TDA units designated as ____ Regiment. These units are Regional Training Institutes (RTI), that conduct training for officers, noncommissioned officers, Military Occupation Specialties, and the like. Originally organized as detachments of the State Area Commands (now designated as the Joint Force Headquarters), RTIs became separate units in the late 1990s. The Center of Military History designated them as numbered Regiments, consistent with the naming convention approved for training units in the U.S. Army Reserve. The new units needed Distinctive Unit Insignia. Because there were so many, fifty-four in total, The Institute of Heraldry and the

National Guard Bureau worked together to use the numeric designation and DUI of disbanded regiments in each state. This saved the Army additional time and labor. The new RTIs did not receive the lineage of the old regiments, because they organized as detachments of the State Area Commands, but using the numbers kept the memory of the old regiments alive.

The U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) also has this exception to policy for their basic training units, but they use MTOE unit designations, ____ Battalion, ____ Infantry Regiment, and include branches in their designations. During the major Army drawdown in the mid-1980s, TRADOC received the units for the training battalions to keep as many historic units active in the Army as possible. If these units are ever needed in the MTOE force, they can be recalled from TRADOC and activated in the field Army. As with the Army Reserve training units, the situation enriches the training experience by introducing new soldiers to Army history and the importance of unit history early in their Army career.

SECTION 14

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

The Institute of Heraldry

The Institute of Heraldry (TIOH) at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, is the Army agency that creates, authorizes, and maintains custody of official heraldic items for the U.S. armed forces and other U.S. government agencies. TIOH is responsible for research, design, development, standardization, and quality control related to heraldic items associated with national symbolism. This includes coats of arms, decorations, medals, flags, streamers, agency seals, badges, and other official insignia. For authorized Army units, TIOH designs and develops Distinctive Unit Insignia (DUI), shoulder sleeve insignia, coats of arms, and distinguishing flags. Coats of arms are visual designs on an escutcheon (shield) identifying a specific unit. DUIs (derived from a unit's coat of arms) are metal devices worn on uniforms. Shoulder sleeve insignia are textile shoulder patches worn on the Army uniform to identify the primary headquarters to which a soldier is assigned.



Crest of The Institute of Heraldry
(TIOH)

Entitlement to heraldic items is based on a unit's type and size as specified in Army policy regulations AR 670-1 and 840-10, *Flags, Guidons, Streamers, Tabards, and Automobile and Aircraft Plates*. The Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, is the approval authority for heraldic entitlements and TIOH is the approval authority for the insignia design. AR 840-10 governs unit entitlement to distinguishing flags and organizational

colors. Units that are generally authorized a distinguishing flag include (but are not limited to): Armies (numbered or geographical), separate battalions organized under a Table of Organization and Equipment (TOE), TOE battalions and squadrons of a regiment, and TOE brigades and regiments, corps, and divisions (including training divisions). Units organized under a Table of Distribution and Allowances are generally authorized a flag only if they have an authorized strength of 300 or more military personnel. Guidons (unit identification markers approved by HQDA) are authorized for TOE companies, batteries, troops, detachments, separate platoons, and units of an equivalent size. TDA units are authorized a guidon only if they have an authorized strength of 20 or more military personnel.

Per AR 670-1, DUIs are authorized for Army commands, field armies, corps, divisions, separate TOE brigades and brigade combat teams not organic to divisions, TOE numbered groups, TOE battalions, TOE hospitals, and certain other organizations. The motto is a design element of the DUI and approved by TIOH. TDA units are generally not authorized a DUI unless they have at least 500 military personnel (250 for Department of the Army operating agencies). Similar rules apply for shoulder sleeve insignia as specified in AR 670-1.

TIOH may update or reassign heraldic items of an inactive unit to an active unit which carries the official lineage of that former unit. TIOH does not determine Army unit lineages but works with the U.S. Army Center of Military History to establish whether current units have lineal connections to previous units.

Contact TIOH (email usarmy.belvoir.hqda.mbx.tioh-webmaster@army.mil) for inquiries on the design or authorization of unit heraldic items.

TIOH does not requisition unit colors or streamers. To order authorized colors and streamers, contact the U.S. Army Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM), Clothing and Heraldry Product Support Integration Directorate (see Section 14).

TIOH does not determine units' official lineage and honors or entitlement to streamers. Contact the U.S. Army Center of Military History (see Section 11) with inquiries about unit lineages or streamer entitlements.

See also AR 672-8 on *Manufacture, Sale, Wear, and Quality Control of Heraldic Items*.



Clothing and Heraldry provides guidons worldwide.

Clothing and Heraldry Product Support Integration Directorate

The Clothing and Heraldry Product Support Integration Directorate (Clothing and Heraldry PSID, or Clothing and Heraldry, for short), part of TACOM, provides uniform clothing and individual equipment for active-duty soldiers. The Clothing and Heraldry PSID's Philadelphia office supplies and issues stocked heraldic items, including the presidential flag, Army flag, Army flag and streamer set, Medal of Honor flag, and Army general officer items such as flags, belts, buckles, auto plates, and flagpoles. Clothing and Heraldry also provides flags, guidons, and streamers to Regular Army, Army Reserve, Army National Guard, and Reserve Officer Training Corps units worldwide.

To requisition unit colors, units must first receive authorization for specific colors from TIOH (Section 14) a separate and distinct agency from the Clothing and Heraldry PSID. In order to requisition campaign streamers or decoration streamers to be displayed on unit colors, a unit must first obtain its lineage and honors (or a signed statement listing the campaigns and decorations to which the unit is entitled) from the Center of

Military History (Section 11). Units may create requisitions for authorized heraldry items online via Clothing and Heraldry's website at <https://heraldry.army.mil>.

U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center

The U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center (AHEC), part of the Army War College based at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, maintains collections such as records, publications, art, artifacts, audiovisual materials, and photos which support studies and research about the U.S. Army. AHEC supports the academic scholarship of students and faculty of the Army War College and educates the public about the Army through programs and exhibits. AHEC is a separate and distinct organization from the U.S. Army Center of Military History. CMH is the agency which maintains Army units' lineage and honors, administers the Army Historical Program produces written historical products for the Army, and maintains the Army Museum Enterprise (AME).

No Army agency has detailed historical records on all Army units, but AHEC does maintain a number of Organizational History Files turned in



Army Heritage and Education Center (AHEC)

by inactivating units (see Section 14, Museum Support Center–Anniston, for procedures) as well as other collections of records and photos which may provide information on the history of some individual units. AHEC may be contacted via telephone at 717-245-3972 or via email at usarmy.carlisle.awc.mbx.ahec-ves@mail.mil. AHEC collections may be searched online through its website at <https://arena.usahec.org/web/arena>. Be advised that material may be cataloged under units' previous designations.

Museum Support Center–Anniston

The Museum Support Center–Anniston (MSC-A) is located at Anniston Army Depot, Alabama. MSC-A receives and stores heraldic and historic property of inactivating units and issues such property to reactivating units. It is managed by the Historic Materiel Division, AME, U.S. Army Center of Military History. When an MTOE unit is going through inactivation, it should contact MSC-A for complete directions on how to properly care for the unit's historical property and flag or guidon. Once a unit provides MSC-A with an inactivation Permanent Order, MSC-A will provide a worksheet which asks for basic descriptions, quantity, and dimensions of all items that need to be turned in. Photographs and supporting information for each item if available, such as service history, soldier stories, and award circumstances, are also requested. This information helps the AME determine if any items should be retained and accessioned into the Army Artifact Collection. If the unit only has flags to turn in, the process is straightforward; AR 840–10 indicates that flags of MTOE units must be turned in to CMH for long-term storage and preservation. AME staff will use the photographs and supporting documentation the unit provides to determine other acceptable items based on interpretive value of the materials.

When an MTOE unit reactivates, it should also contact MSC-A for the return of any items put into storage. MSC-A can only return historic property to reactivating units if the items were properly turned in upon its last inactivation.

These instructions apply to Regular Army and Army Reserve units. Army National Guard units that are scheduled to reorganize, redesignate, consolidate, convert, or change station will retain their OHF and historical property in accordance with AR 870–5(5-1a) and NGR 10–1, *Organization and Federal Recognition of Army National Guard Units*. State headquarters

elements may retain the OHF and historical property of ARNG units that have had their federal recognition withdrawn.

MSC-A can be contacted at: usarmy.mcnair.cmh.mbx.answers@army.mil.

Awards and Decorations Branch, U.S. Army Human Resources Command

Awards and Decorations Branch, U.S. Army Human Resources Command (HRC), determines all recognition for unit awards and Campaign Participation Credit while the Organizational History Division keeps track of them after they are approved and part of the unit's history. The decorations will be added to a unit's lineage and unit file upon receipt of an HRC Permanent Order or Department of the Army General Order.

Please remember that the Organizational History Division is not the approval authority on unit awards and recommendations, but because it sees the end results of approved submissions, the following are some suggestions for submitting unit awards so units receive the correct recognition on lineages.

- The form needed for submitting unit awards is DA Form 7594, Unit Award Recommendation, and can be found on Army Publishing Directorate's website (<https://armypubs.army.mil/>).
- CMH cannot tell units how to prepare awards for recommendation and is not a part of the approval process.
- Use only official designations and match the designations with the correct UIC.
- Be specific when submitting unit award information. Provide information down to the company level if applicable. Example: when an entire company is to be recognized, use "Company A, __ Battalion, __ Infantry Regiment" not "Detachment, __ Battalion, __ Infantry Regiment."
- When submitting subordinate units, list them on page 6 of the DA Form 7594. This will be the only way they are included for recognition. Further instructions are found in AR 600-8-22, *Military Awards*.
- When the higher headquarters element such as a brigade or division is recognized, only that headquarters element is authorized



Soldiers of the 112th Engineers attach streamers to unit colors
(*Ohio Army National Guard*)

to display the award. For any subordinate elements to display the award, those units must be recognized individually.

For additional information regarding decorations, please consult the following sources:

1. AR 600–8–22, *Military Awards*
2. AR 870–5, *Military History: Responsibilities, Policies, and Procedures*
3. DA PAM 670–1, *Guide to the Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia*

Awards and Decorations Branch, HRC, can be contacted at usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-awards@mail.mil or online at <https://www.hrc.army.mil/content/Awards%20and%20Decorations%20Branch>.

Army Uniform Policy Branch

To determine what soldiers can wear on their uniform, units should use their Lineage and Honors Certificates to confirm the awards to which the unit is entitled. AR 670–1, *Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia*; DA Pamphlet 670–1, *Guide to the Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia*; and AR 600–8–22, *Military Awards*, lay out what awards are authorized for temporary and permanent wear.

Please remember that the Organizational History Division is not the authority on uniform wear. Units should refer their uniform questions to Army Uniform Policy Branch, which is under the Deputy Chief of Staff, Army, G–1, and can be reached at usarmy.pentagon.hqda-dcs-g-1.mbx.uniform-policy@army.mil and on the web at <https://www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/uniform/default.asp>.

See Table 3 for information on the most common awards seen on Army lineages, but please refer to the ARs and DA PAMs for the official authorities and less common awards.

**TABLE 3—AUTHORITY FOR WEAR - U.S. UNIT AWARD EMBLEMS
(EXTRACT FROM DA PAM 670-1, TABLE 22-1, JAN 2021)**

Emblem in order of precedence	Authority for wear		Subsequent award	
	Permanent¹	Temporary²	Oak leaf cluster	Star
Presidential Unit Citation (Army)	X ³	X	X ⁴	
Presidential Unit Citation (Navy)	X			X
Army Valorous Unit Award	X	X	X	
Army Meritorious Unit Commendation	X	X	X	
Navy Unit Commendation	X ³			X
Army Superior Unit Award	X	X	X	

¹ A Soldier may wear the unit award permanently if the individual was assigned to and present for duty with the unit any time during the period cited, or if the individual was attached by competent orders to and present for duty with the unit during the entire period or for at least 30 consecutive days of the period cited. When a Soldier is permanently awarded a unit award and is subsequently assigned to a unit that has received the same unit award, the Soldier will wear the permanent award in lieu of the temporary unit award.

² A Soldier may wear the unit award temporarily if the individual was not present with the unit during the period cited but was subsequently assigned to the unit. Soldiers may wear the unit award only while assigned to the cited unit. For elements of regiments organized under the New Manning System, only personnel of the earning unit wear the emblem temporarily. Temporary unit awards will not be worn for official photographs or for promotion or selection boards.

³ The 30-day requirement for attached personnel does not apply to Navy and Air Force awards.

⁴ Army and Air Force awards are equal in precedence and the emblems are identical. An individual authorized to wear both an Army and Air Force emblem would wear a single emblem with an oak leaf cluster.

Foreign Awards Permanent and Temporary Wear. Per AR 600–8–22, only the French Fourragere and the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation are authorized for temporary wear; temporary wear of the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation is limited to wear while assigned to units in Korea. If a foreign unit award is worn, personnel must wear at least one other U.S. decoration, service medal, or unit award.

The criteria for permanent and temporary wear of foreign unit awards is as follows:

1. **French Fourragere.** Authorized for permanent or temporary wear.
2. **Belgian Fourragere.** Only authorized for permanent wear.
3. **Netherlands Orange Lanyard.** Only authorized for permanent wear.
4. **Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation.** Only authorized for permanent wear.
5. **Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation.** Only authorized for permanent wear. Soldiers who are assigned to the 2d Infantry Division may wear the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation while serving with the unit in the host nation.
6. **Vietnam Presidential Unit Citation.** Only authorized for permanent wear.
7. **Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation.** Only authorized for permanent wear; only one may be worn.
8. **Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Unit Citation.** Only authorized for permanent wear; only one may be worn.

For information on how to wear unit awards, see DA Pam 670–1.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the difference between a battle, a campaign, and an operation?

There are differences between the names of Army operations and the names of official Army campaigns. For example, the name of the operation to invade German-occupied Normandy, France, during World War II is “Operation OVERLORD,” whereas the official campaign name pertaining to the same operation is “NORMANDY.” “Operation IRAQI FREEDOM” is the overall name for U.S. military operations in Iraq from 2003 to 2011, but campaign streamers for these operations consist of seven different names corresponding to specific date ranges (for example, “LIBERATION OF IRAQ” covering 19 March 2003 to 1 May 2003). Typically, multiple battles occurred within a single campaign. These battles are often widely known, such as the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944; however, the Army recognizes the larger campaign and the Battle of the Bulge falls within the Ardennes-Alsace campaign. This is seen more in later conflicts such as World War I and World War II than earlier conflicts such as the Civil War, where the Battle of Gettysburg is a campaign streamer. See the list of official Army campaign names used on Campaign Participation Credit streamers in Annex 1.

Is every deployment or operation part of an official Army campaign?

Several Army missions and types of operations are not represented with campaign streamers. These include peacekeeping missions; state missions; security for different contingencies, such as the Mexican Border, the Berlin Crisis, or the 2002 Winter Olympics; or deployments to Poland, South Korea, or the Sinai Peninsula. These examples all represent important service, but they are not part of wars or Army expeditions and therefore are not represented with streamers.



Postcard of National Guard troops at Camp Stewart, El Paso, Texas, 1916
(CMH-FPO)

What is in the Force Structure and Organizational History Division 's Unit files?

The Organizational History Division receives frequent requests from units and the public about providing operational history, detailed history, and archival material on units. However, our records are the Organizational History Division's working files and contain what we need to prepare Lineage and Honors Certificates. They consist of Permanent Orders, Organizational Authorities, and Adjutant General Letters that direct unit organizational changes; authorizations for Campaign Participation Credit and decorations, and various other official documentation required for properly recording and authenticating lineage entries.

Our records DO NOT contain operational records, written unit histories, annual reports, archival material, lessons learned, after-action reports, photographs, list of commanders, troop lists, morning reports, list of higher headquarters, information on Medal of Honors recipients, accident reports, incident reports, medical records, or state mobilizations and state awards for ARNG units, as none of that information is required to prepare a Lineage and Honors Certificate. Information of

this nature should be kept in a unit's Organizational History File (OHF), as described in Section 8. Official Army records are housed in various locations; see Annex 2, Sources for Army Records.

Units are also required to maintain the records of their organization to comply with the Federal Records Act, see AR 24-400-2, *Army Records Management Program*, and DA PAM 25-403, *Army Guide to Record Keeping*, for requirements and implementation.

Why do lettered elements of Army units use "I" and "K," but not "J"?

Organic elements such as companies of support battalions, batteries of artillery regiments, or troops of cavalry units, are designated by letter in alphabetical order, as in Companies A, B, C, etc., 2d Support Battalion. In the modern Army, the ninth lettered element of a numbered unit has often mistakenly been identified by the letter J but is actually "Company/Battery/Troop I."

When a unit has nine or more lettered organic elements, the ninth element is only correctly designated by the letter I. If there is a tenth lettered element, that element is designated by the letter K. The letter J is not used to designate any element, so no Army unit is designated as "Company J," "Battery J," or "Troop J".

This tradition and policy dates to orders issued 22 May 1816 establishing the system of designating regimental companies by letter and



Where's Company J?

specifically excluding the designation “Company J” from use by Army units. Because the letters “I” and “J” often look similar, especially in handwritten format, the Army chose to avoid confusion by excluding “J” from its lettering system. Be advised that Army databases contain no Subcode I0 and therefore uses Subcode J0 to represent the ninth organic element of certain Army units. However, in keeping with longstanding Army tradition, any organic element represented in DRRS-A by Subcode J is officially designated by the letter I, and any tenth element by the letter K. The letter J is not used to identify any Army subunit.

Does CMH track a list of historic higher headquarters for units?

With a few exceptions, such as specific units assigned to divisions, the Center of Military History does not track which higher headquarters units are assigned to over time. Higher headquarters are not included on units’ official Lineage and Honors Certificates. Units should maintain their own organizational records because the Army does not have a system for tracking units’ higher headquarters throughout their history.

Does CMH have lists and photographs of current and former unit commanders and senior NCOs?

The Center of Military History does not maintain or compile lists or photographs of current and former unit commanders and senior NCOs. Units or individuals wishing to locate information on former unit leaders are encouraged to consult the Sources for Army Records, Annex 2.

Currently active U.S. Army units seeking photographs of past unit senior leaders should start by consulting their Organizational History File. The OHF is the location where units should keep the documentary evidence of their history, heritage, and traditions. Some OHFs for inactive units are available at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center.

What is the difference between Inactivate and Deactivate?

Units in the U.S. Army inactivate. They do not deactivate. This is very often misstated in the larger Army community. Though the words have similar meaning, “to make something inoperative,” inactivating is commonly used in the biological sciences (for living things) and deactivating is commonly used in engineering. Inactive also implies that the activity can return, while deactivate is a permanent end of activity. A good way to remember this is with the words of a distinguished retired Organizational History Division historian, “You inactivate a unit and deactivate a bomb.”

Does CMH verify firsts, lasts, most, etc.?

As a matter of policy established by Army leadership after World War II, unless an official announcement of known facts is issued, the Center of Military History refrains from sanctioning superlative claims involving “firsts,” “lasts,” “most,” and the like, because they often are difficult to substantiate and frequently are contested by other claimants.

Why are some awards or recognition streamers not listed on unit lineages?

There are several streamers awarded to units which are not tracked on unit lineages. An example is the Army Safety Excellence Streamer, which may be displayed for one year after being awarded. Other examples are the Combat Action Streamer, the Combat Infantry Streamer, the Combat Medical Streamer, and state awards for Army National Guard units. The Center of Military History only authorizes and tracks decoration streamers as awarded to units under AR 600–8–22.

Pay roll of 32
3^d Troop }
1st Regiment St. Croixans
November 1777.
Exam^d.
Capt Alex^r S. Dandridge
4.
from Nov 77 to Sept 78

1777 Muster Rolls, showing historic use of 2d and 3d in unit names (CMH)

What is the proper way to notate second and third: with “d” or with “nd” and “rd”?

Ordinals are designated as 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, and so on. Ordinals ending in 2 and 3 are written out as 2d and 3d. For example, 22d and 33d.

The Army has always written ordinals this way. Don't believe it? The example shown on the facing page, from 1777, proves it.

The only change is that the Army no longer uses superscript. For ease of communication, and clarity, we write out designations in a standard, uniform format.

How do you properly abbreviate units with slashes and dashes?

Designation abbreviation format is a military symbols question, not a unit designation question. That said, if the headquarters element has operational control over a unit, then the forward slash (/) is used. If the headquarters element is not active (i.e., administrative or ceremonial), the dash (-) is used. For example:

A/2-7 IN. Company A is under the operational control of HHC, 2d Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, but there is no active headquarters element of the 7th Infantry Regiment, so the A is / and the 2 is a –.

What are the basic rules of Army National Guard Lineage?

The new lineage and honors is the history of the unit, or its predecessors, at that location. Army National Guard units trace their lineage through the continuity of personnel drilling in a federally recognized unit in the same geographic location. For lineage to transfer during a change of station, 50 percent or more of the personnel have to move when the unit moves. If that happens, the federal recognition transfers.



Chippewa, Upper Canada, 5 July 1814. “Those are regulars, by God!” the British commander shouted as he realized the advancing ranks were not the untrained levies he easily whipped before, but Winfield Scott’s brigade of infantry drilled through the previous winter into a crack unit. The day saw the British driven from the battlefield and the American soldier’s faith in himself renewed after two years of seemingly endless failures.

Why does the Organizational History Division use the term “Regular Army”?

The Army consists of three components, the Regular Army, the Army National Guard, and the Army Reserve. The Active Army is composed of all units currently on active duty, including all Regular Army units as well as all currently mobilized Army National Guard and Army Reserve units. So, the Regular Army is also always part of the Active Army, but the Active Army includes more than just the Regular Army.

Why is “U.S.” not part of Regular Army regimental designations?

The letters “U.S.” often show up in regimental unit designations in publications, museum exhibits, and so on. “U.S.” was not part of regimental official unit designations with a few exceptions, such as the United States Regiment of Dragoons. Much as a regiment was assumed to be the unspoken echelon, everyone knew it was a “U.S.” organization unless otherwise noted.

How does the Organizational History Division select Regular Army and Army Reserve units for reactivation?

When HQDA G-3/5/7 requests a unit for reactivation, Organizational History Division historians consider many factors before making a selection. Units are chosen from the pool of available inactive units in the component needed (Regular Army or Army Reserve), and within the same branch and echelon request to meet the required structure. This means that if an Army Reserve Transportation Company is being requested, the new unit will be chosen from the inactive pool of Transportation Companies allotted to the Army Reserve.

The Organizational History Division is tasked with perpetuating and reactivating the most notable units available, so the pool of available units is narrowed down by examining several factors, such as the number of campaigns and decorations a unit has earned, which conflicts it has participated in, the age of the unit, and its location. If not the same post, the Organizational History Division looks for the same town, state, region, or country. Finding a unit with the same function is a more difficult match because the Organizational History Division tracks units by branch and echelon, not by function.

When reactivating units in the Regular Army, some additional factors enter the process. Including if the new unit will be permanently assigned to a division or brigade combat team. CMH has a mandate to maintain as many combat arms regiments in the active force structure as possible. This mandate takes precedence over whether a unit may have previous service with a division or brigade combat team. But when possible divisional associations are maintained.

The majority of Regular Army units are not permanently assigned to a division. Many Regular Army units have such vast and varied service that they can activate almost anywhere. In these cases, preference is given to units with good service records and those with recent service in the War on Terrorism, while still trying to match elements such as previous locations.

What is the Joint Meritorious Unit Award?

The Joint Meritorious Unit Award (JMUA) is only awarded to joint units or joint duty activities. Soldiers must have been permanently assigned or attached by official orders to the joint unit, activity, or joint task force (JTF) receiving the JMUA. According to DoD 1348.33, Volume 4, Manual of Military Decorations and Awards: DoD Joint Decorations and Awards, “Members of military-specific units (i.e., Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Space Force) assigned, detailed, or attached to joint units, activities, or JTFs, even if they are under the operational control of the joint unit, are not eligible for the JMUA, but retain eligibility for unit awards from their respective Military Service.”

ANNEX 1

CAMPAIGN STREAMERS OF THE U.S. ARMY

WAR/CAMPAIGN	INCLUSIVE DATES	CAMPAIGN STREAMER INSCRIPTION FOR UNIT
REVOLUTIONARY WAR		
Lexington	19 April 1775	LEXINGTON
Ticonderoga	10 May 1775	TICONDEROGA
Boston	17 June 1775 to 17 March 1776	BOSTON
Quebec	28 August 1775 to 3 July 1776	QUEBEC
Charleston	28 to 29 June 1776 29 March to 12 May 1780	CHARLESTON
Long Island	26 to 29 August 1776	LONG ISLAND
Trenton	26 December 1776	TRENTON
Princeton	3 January 1777	PRINCETON
Saratoga	2 July to 17 October 1777	SARATOGA
Brandywine	11 September 1777	BRANDYWINE
Germantown	4 October 1777	GERMANTOWN
Monmouth	28 June 1778	MONMOUTH
Savannah	29 December 1778 16 September to 10 October 1779	SAVANNAH
Cowpens	17 January 1781	COWPENS
Guilford Court House	15 March 1781	GUILFORD COURT HOUSE
Yorktown	28 September to 19 October 1781	YORKTOWN

*War service streamer requirement: Unit must have been part of the revolutionary land forces between 19 April 1775 and 19 April 1783.

WAR OF 1812		
Canada	18 June 1812 to 17 February 1815	CANADA
Chippewa	5 July 1814	CHIPPEWA
Lundy's Lane	25 July 1814	LUNDY'S LANE
Bladensburg	17 to 29 August 1814	BLADENSBURG
McHenry	13 September 1814	MC HENRY
New Orleans	23 September 1814 to 8 January 1815	NEW ORLEANS

*War service streamer requirement: Unit must have been part of the forces of the United States between 18 June 1812 and 17 February 1815.

WAR/CAMPAIGN	INCLUSIVE DATES	CAMPAIGN STREAMER INSCRIPTION FOR UNIT
MEXICAN WAR		
Palo Alto	8 May 1846	PALO ALTO
Resaca de la Palma	9 May 1846	RESACA DE LA PALMA
Monterey	21 September 1846	MONTEREY
Buena Vista	22 to 23 February 1847	BUENA VISTA
Vera Cruz	9 to 29 March 1847	VERA CRUZ
Cerro Gordo	17 April 1847	CERRO GORDO
Contreras	18 to 20 August 1847	CONTRERAS
Churubusco	20 August 1847	CHURUBUSCO
Molino del Rey	8 September 1847	MOLINO DEL REY
Chapultepec	13 September 1847	CHAPULTEPEC

*War service streamer requirement: Unit must have served in the theater or area of operations between 24 April 1846 and 30 May 1848.

CIVIL WAR		
Sumter	12 to 13 April 1861	SUMTER
Bull Run	16 to 22 July 1861	BULL RUN
Henry and Donelson	6 to 16 February 1862	HENRY & DONELSON
Mississippi River	6 February 1862 to 9 July 1863	MISSISSIPPI RIVER
Peninsula	17 March to 3 August 1862	PENINSULA
Shiloh	6 to 7 April 1862	SHILOH
Valley	15 May to 17 June 1862	VALLEY
Manassas	7 August to 2 September 1862	MANASSAS
Antietam	3 to 17 September 1862	ANTIETAM
Fredericksburg	9 November to 15 December 1862	FREDERICKSBURG
Murfreesborough	26 December 1862 to 4 January 1863	MURFREESBOROUGH
Chancellorsville	27 April to 6 May 1863	CHANCELLORSVILLE
Gettysburg	29 June to 3 July 1863	GETTYSBURG
Vicksburg	29 March to 4 July 1863	VICKSBURG
Chickamauga	16 August to 22 September 1863	CHICKAMAUGA
Chattanooga	23 to 27 November 1863	CHATTANOOGA
Wilderness	4 to 7 May 1864	WILDERNESS
Atlanta	7 May to 2 September 1864	ATLANTA
Spotsylvania	8 to 21 May 1864	SPOTSYLVANIA

WAR/CAMPAIGN	INCLUSIVE DATES	CAMPAIGN STREAMER INSCRIPTION FOR UNIT
Cold Harbor	22 May to 3 June 1864	COLD HARBOR
Petersburg	4 June 1864 to 2 April 1865	PETERSBURG
Shenandoah	7 August to 28 November 1864	SHENANDOAH
Franklin	17 to 30 November 1864	FRANKLIN
Nashville	1 to 16 December 1864	NASHVILLE
Appomattox	3 to 8 April 1865	APPOMATTOX

*War service streamer requirement: Unit must have served in the theater or area of operations between 1 April 1861 and 26 May 1865.

INDIAN WARS		
Miami	January 1790 to August 1795	MIAMI
Tippecanoe	21 September to 18 November 1811	TIPPECANOE
Creeks	27 July 1813 to August 1814 February 1836 to July 1837	CREEKS
Seminoles	20 November 1817 to 31 October 1818 28 December 1835 to 14 August 1842 15 December 1855 to May 1858	SEMINOLES
Black Hawk	26 April to 20 September 1832	BLACK HAWK
Comanches	1867 to 1875	COMANCHES
Modocs	1872 to 1873	MODOCS
Apaches	1873 and 1885 to 1886	APACHES
Little Big Horn	1876 to 1877	LITTLE BIG HORN
Nez Perces	1877	NEZ PERCES
Bannocks	1878	BANNOCKS
Cheyennes	1878 to 1879	CHEYENNES
Utes	September 1879 to November 1880	UTES
Pine Ridge	November 1890 to January 1891	PINE RIDGE

*War service streamer not authorized.

WAR WITH SPAIN		
Santiago	22 June to 11 July 1898	SANTIAGO
Puerto Rico	25 July to 13 August 1898	PUERTO RICO
Manila	31 July to 13 August 1898	MANILA

*War service streamer not authorized.

WAR/CAMPAIGN	INCLUSIVE DATES	CAMPAIGN STREAMER INSCRIPTION FOR UNIT
CHINA RELIEF EXPEDITION		
Tientsin	13 July 1900	TIENTSIN
Yang-tsun	6 August 1900	YANG-TSUN
Peking	14 to 15 August 1900	PEKING

*War service streamer requirement: Unit must have served with the China Relief Expedition between 26 June 1900 and 27 May 1901.

PHILIPPINE INSURRECTION		
Manila	4 February to 17 March 1899	MANILA
Iloilo	8 to 12 February 1899	ILOILO
Malolos	24 March to 16 August 1899	MALOLOS
Laguna de Bay	8 to 17 April 1899	LAGUNA DE BAY
San Isidro	12 April to 30 May 1899 15 October to 19 November 1899	SAN ISIDRO
Zapote River	13 June 1899	ZAPOTE RIVER
Cavite	7 to 13 October 1899 4 January to 9 February 1900	CAVITE
Tarlac	5 to 20 November 1899	TARLAC
San Fabian	6 to 19 November 1899	SAN FABIAN
Mindanao	4 July 1902 to 31 December 1904 22 October 1905	MINDANAO
Jolo	1 to 24 May 1905; 6 to 8 March 1906 6 August 1906; 11 to 15 June 1913	JOLO

*War service streamer requirement: Unit must have served in the Philippine Islands between 4 February 1899 and 4 July 1902.

MEXICAN EXPEDITION		
Mexico 1916 to 1917	14 March 1916 to 7 February 1917	MEXICO

*War service streamer not authorized.

WORLD WAR I		
Cambrai	20 November to 4 December 1917	CAMBRAI
Somme Defensive	21 March to 6 April 1918	SOMME DEFENSIVE
Lys	9 to 27 April 1918	LYS

WAR/CAMPAIGN	INCLUSIVE DATES	CAMPAIGN STREAMER INSCRIPTION FOR UNIT
Aisne	27 May to 5 June 1918	AISNE
Montdidier-Noyon	9 to 13 June 1918	MONTDIDIER-NOYON
Champagne-Marne	15 to 18 July 1918	CHAMPAGNE-MARNE
Aisne-Marne	18 July to 6 August 1918	AISNE-MARNE
Somme Offensive	8 August to 11 November 1918	SOMME OFFENSIVE
Oise-Aisne	18 August to 11 November 1918	OISE-AISNE
Ypres-Lys	19 August to 11 November 1918	YPRES-LYS
St. Mihiel	12 to 15 September 1918	ST. MIHIEL
Meuse-Argonne	26 September to 11 November 1918	MEUSE-ARGONNE
Vittorio Veneto	24 October to 4 November 1918	VITTORIO VENETO

*War service streamer requirement: Unit must have served in the theater of operations between 6 April 1917 and 11 November 1918.

WORLD WAR II – AMERICAN THEATER		
Antisubmarine	7 December 1941 to 2 September 1945	ANTISUBMARINE
Ground Combat	7 December 1941 to 2 September 1945	GROUND COMBAT
Air Combat	7 December 1941 to 2 September 1945	AIR COMBAT

*War service streamer requirement: Unit must have served in the theater outside the continental limits of the United States between 7 December 1941 and 2 September 1945.

WORLD WAR II – ASIATIC-PACIFIC THEATER		
Philippine Islands	7 December 1941 to 10 May 1942	PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
Burma, 1942	7 December 1941 to 25 May 1942	BURMA
Central Pacific	7 December 1941 to 6 December 1943	CENTRAL PACIFIC
East Indies	1 January to 22 July 1942	EAST INDIES
India-Burma	2 April 1942 to 28 January 1945	INDIA-BURMA
Air Offensive, Japan	17 April 1942 to 2 September 1945	AIR OFFENSIVE, JAPAN
Aleutian Islands	3 June 1942 to 24 August 1943	ALEUTIAN ISLANDS
China Defensive	4 July 1942 to 4 May 1945	CHINA DEFENSIVE
Papua	23 July 1942 to 23 January 1943	PAPUA
Guadalcanal	7 August 1942 to 21 February 1943	GUADALCANAL
New Guinea	24 January 1943 to 31 December 1944	NEW GUINEA

WAR/CAMPAIGN	INCLUSIVE DATES	CAMPAIGN STREAMER INSCRIPTION FOR UNIT
Northern Solomons	22 February 1943 to 21 November 1944	NORTHERN SOLOMONS
Eastern Mandates (Air) (Ground)	7 December 1943 to 16 April 1944 31 January to 14 June 1944	EASTERN MANDATES
Bismarck Archipelago	15 December 1943 to 27 November 1944	BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO
Western Pacific (Air) (Ground)	17 April 1944 to 2 September 1945 15 June 1944 to 2 September 1945	WESTERN PACIFIC
Leyte	17 October 1944 to 1 July 1945	LEYTE
Luzon	15 December 1944 to 4 July 1945	LUZON
Central Burma	29 January to 15 July 1945	CENTRAL BURMA
Southern Philippines	27 February to 4 July 1945	SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES
Ryukyus	26 March to 2 July 1945	RYUKYUS
China Offensive	5 May to 2 September 1945	CHINA OFFENSIVE

*War service streamer requirement: Unit must have served in theater between 7 December 1941 and 2 September 1945.

WORLD WAR II – EUROPEAN - AFRICAN - MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER		
Egypt-Libya	11 June 1942 to 12 February 1943	EGYPT-LIBYA
Air Offensive, Europe	4 July 1942 to 5 June 1944	AIR OFFENSIVE, EUROPE
Algeria-French Morocco	8 to 11 November 1942	ALGERIA-FRENCH MOROCCO
Tunisia (Air) (Ground)	12 November 1942 to 13 May 1943 17 November 1942 to 13 May 1943	TUNISIA
Sicily (Air) (Ground)	14 May to 17 August 1943 9 July to 17 August 1943	SICILY
Naples-Foggia (Air) (Ground)	18 August 1943 to 21 January 1944 9 September 1943 to 21 January 1944	NAPLES-FOGGIA
Anzio	22 January to 24 May 1944	ANZIO
Rome-Arno	22 January to 9 September 1944	ROME-ARNO
Normandy	6 June to 24 July 1944	NORMANDY
Northern France	25 July to 14 September 1944	NORTHERN FRANCE
Southern France	15 August to 14 September 1944	SOUTHERN FRANCE
North Apennines	10 September 1944 to 4 April 1945	NORTH APENNINES
Rhineland	15 September 1944 to 21 March 1945	RHINELAND
Ardennes-Alsace	16 December 1944 to 25 January 1945	ARDENNES-ALSACE

WAR/CAMPAIGN	INCLUSIVE DATES	CAMPAIGN STREAMER INSCRIPTION FOR UNIT
Central Europe	22 March to 11 May 1945	CENTRAL EUROPE
Po Valley	5 April to 8 May 1945	PO VALLEY

*War service streamer requirement: unit must have served in theater between 7 December 1941 and 2 September 1945.

KOREAN WAR		
UN Defensive	27 June to 15 September 1950	UN DEFENSIVE
UN Offensive	16 September to 2 November 1950	UN OFFENSIVE
Chinese Communist Forces Intervention	3 November 1950 to 24 January 1951	CCF INTERVENTION
First UN Counteroffensive	25 January to 21 April 1951	FIRST UN COUNTEROFFENSIVE
Chinese Communist Forces Spring Offensive	22 April to 8 July 1951	CCF SPRING OFFENSIVE
UN Summer-Fall Offensive	9 July to 27 November 1951	UN SUMMER-FALL OFFENSIVE
Second Korean Winter	28 November 1951 to 30 April 1952	SECOND KOREAN WINTER
Korea, Summer-Fall 1952	1 May to 30 November 1952	KOREA, SUMMER-FALL 1952
Third Korean Winter	1 December 1952 to 30 April 1953	THIRD KOREAN WINTER
Korea, Summer 1953	1 May to 27 July 1953	KOREA, SUMMER 1953

*War service streamer not authorized.

VIETNAM		
Advisory	15 March 1962 to 7 March 1965	ADVISORY
Defense	8 March 1965 to 24 December 1965	DEFENSE
Counteroffensive	25 December 1965 to 30 June 1966	COUNTEROFFENSIVE
Counteroffensive Phase II	1 July 1966 to 31 May 1967	COUNTEROFFENSIVE, PHASE II
Counteroffensive Phase III	1 June 1967 to 29 January 1968	COUNTEROFFENSIVE, PHASE III
Tet Counteroffensive	30 January 1968 to 1 April 1968	TET COUNTEROFFENSIVE
Counteroffensive Phase IV	2 April 1968 to 30 June 1968	COUNTEROFFENSIVE, PHASE IV
Counteroffensive Phase V	1 July 1968 to 1 November 1968	COUNTEROFFENSIVE, PHASE V

WAR/CAMPAIGN	INCLUSIVE DATES	CAMPAIGN STREAMER INSCRIPTION FOR UNIT
Counteroffensive Phase VI	2 November 1968 to 22 February 1969	COUNTEROFFENSIVE, PHASE VI
Tet 69/ Counteroffensive	23 February 1969 to 8 June 1969	TET 69/ COUNTEROFFENSIVE
Summer-Fall 1969	9 June 1969 to 31 October 1969	SUMMER-FALL 1969
Winter-Spring 1970	1 November 1969 to 30 April 1970	WINTER-SPRING 1970
Sanctuary Counteroffensive	1 May 1970 to 30 June 1970	SANCTUARY COUNTEROFFENSIVE
Counteroffensive Phase VII	1 July 1970 to 30 June 1971	COUNTEROFFENSIVE, PHASE VII
Consolidation I	1 July 1971 to 30 November 1971	CONSOLIDATION I
Consolidation II	1 December 1971 to 29 March 1972	CONSOLIDATION II
Cease-Fire	30 March 1972 to 28 January 1973	CEASE-FIRE

*War service streamer not authorized.

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONS STREAMER		
Dominican Republic	28 April 1965 to 21 September 1966	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
Grenada	23 October to 21 November 1983	GRENADA
Panama	20 December 1989 to 31 January 1990	PANAMA
Somalia	5 December 1992 to 31 March 1995	SOMALIA
Bosnia-Herzegovina	20 November 1995 to 23 March 1999	BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

*War service streamer not authorized.

SOUTHWEST ASIA		
Defense of Saudi Arabia	2 August 1990 to 16 January 1991	DEFENSE OF SAUDI ARABIA
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait	17 January 1991 to 11 April 1991	LIBERATION AND DEFENSE OF KUWAIT
Cease-Fire	12 April 1991 to 30 November 1995	CEASE-FIRE

*War service streamer not authorized.

KOSOVO		
Kosovo Air Campaign 1999	24 March to 10 June 1999	KOSOVO AIR

WAR/CAMPAIGN	INCLUSIVE DATES	CAMPAIGN STREAMER INSCRIPTION FOR UNIT
Kosovo Defense Campaign	11 June 1999 to 31 December 2013	KOSOVO DEFENSE

*War service streamer not authorized.

WAR ON TERRORISM		
Global War on Terrorism Streamer		
Global War on Terrorism	11 September 2001 to a date to be determined	GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM
Afghanistan Campaign Streamer		
Liberation of Afghanistan	11 September 2001 to 30 November 2001	LIBERATION OF AFGHANISTAN
Consolidation I	1 December 2001 to 30 September 2006	CONSOLIDATION I
Consolidation II	1 October 2006 to 30 November 2009	CONSOLIDATION II
Consolidation III	1 December 2009 to 30 June 2011	CONSOLIDATION III
Transition I	1 July 2011 to 31 December 2014	TRANSITION I
Transition II	1 January 2015 to 31 August 2021	TRANSITION II
IRAQ CAMPAIGN STREAMER		
Liberation of Iraq	19 March 2003 to 1 May 2003	LIBERATION OF IRAQ
Transition of Iraq	2 May 2003 to 28 June 2004	TRANSITION OF IRAQ
Iraqi Governance	29 June 2004 to 15 December 2005	IRAQI GOVERNANCE
National Resolution	16 December 2005 to 9 January 2007	NATIONAL RESOLUTION
Iraqi Surge	10 January 2007 to 31 December 2008	IRAQI SURGE
Iraqi Sovereignty	1 January 2009 to 31 August 2010	IRAQI SOVEREIGNTY
New Dawn	1 September 2010 to 31 December 2011	NEW DAWN
IRAQ/SYRIA CAMPAIGN STREAMER		
Abeysance	14 June 2014 to 24 November 2015	ABEYANCE
Intensification	25 November 2015 to 14 April 2017	INTENSIFICATION
Defeat	15 April 2017 to 1 July 2020	DEFEAT
Normalize	2 July 2020 to a date to be determined	NORMALIZE Note: Campaign is still open and thus no streamer is authorized.

ANNEX 2

SOURCES OF ARMY RECORDS

Army records are managed under an approved National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) records disposition schedule. These records schedules tell an agency when to transfer permanent records to NARA or when they can legally dispose of nonpermanent records. The general rule of thumb is if Army records are older than 30 years and not needed to conduct agency business they should have transferred into NARA's custody. Anything less than 30 years but older than 1 year will most likely still be under the control of the Army.

NARA is the government's repository for permanent/historically significant records produced by the Executive Branch Agencies. There are about forty different NARA repositories holding government records. NARA can be found online at <https://www.archives.gov/>.

The tables on the following pages contain the NARA repositories/sections holding the most frequently requested types of records:



The National Archives and Records Administration is a great place to start research on your unit's lineage and history.

NARA BRANCH CONTACT INFO	HOLDINGS
National Archives and Records Administration Military Reference Branch 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20408 Email: archives1reference@nara.gov Website: https://www.archives.gov/dc	Claim files for pensions based on Federal military service, 1775–1916; and bounty land warrant application files based on wartime service, 1778–1855. Regular Army enlisted personnel serving from 1789 through 31 October 1912, and officers serving from 1789 through 30 June 1917. Records relating to persons who served in the Confederate States Army from 1861 through 1865. Volunteer service of persons serving during an emergency and whose service was considered to be in the Federal interest during the period 1775–1902. Unit morning reports prior to 1917. Unit operational records prior to 1917. Unit rosters prior to 1917.

NARA BRANCH CONTACT INFO	HOLDINGS
National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) Military Personnel Records 1 Archives Drive St. Louis, MO 63138 Note: Many records were destroyed in the NPRC fire in 1973. Website: https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center To request Military Service Records: https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records OR National Archives at St. Louis 1 Archives Drive St. Louis, MO 63138 Email: stl.archives@nara.gov Website: https://www.archives.gov/st-louis	Officers separated after 29 June 1917, and enlisted personnel separated after 31 October 1912. Official Military Personnel Files from all service branches for veterans. Note: Personnel records of Army members discharged/retired after 30 September 2002 are retained in electronic format by the Army. NPRC has access to the Army's electronic system and will respond to requests for those records. Awards to individuals no longer in the service or on active duty. Morning reports from 1917 to 1974. [NB: The Army discontinued the use of morning reports in 1974, changing to personnel data cards. These cards also are on file at the NPRC.] Unit rosters for the Regular Army from 1917 to 1968.

NARA BRANCH CONTACT INFO	HOLDINGS
Archives II Textual Reference Branch National Archives and Records Administration 8601 Adelphi Road College Park, MD 20740 Email: inquire@nara.gov, archives2reference@nara.gov (for virtual consultation), visit archives2@nara.gov (appointment questions) Website: https://www.archives.gov/college-park	Unit operational records, 1917–1954, and from 1954 through the Vietnam era for units that served in Southeast Asia. For post-Vietnam Unit Operational Records: Army records are managed under an approved NARA records disposition schedule. These records schedules tell an agency when to transfer permanent records to NARA or when they can legally dispose of nonpermanent records. In general, if Army records are older than 30 years and not needed to conduct agency business, they should have been transferred to NARA. Anything less than 30 years but older than 1 year will most likely still be with the Army. Contact the Army Command or unit to verify the status of the records. The Army's Records Management Division may also be able to assist in determining the status/location of the records.
Still Picture Branch Special Media Archives Service Division National Archives and Records Administration 8601 Adelphi Road College Park, MD 20740 Email: stillpix@nara.gov Website: https://www.archives.gov/research/still-pictures	Official photographs pertaining to the U.S. Army starting from 1861. The largest collection of photographs will be found in the Record Group 111: Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer.
Motion Picture and Video Branch Special Archives Division National Archives and Records Administration 8601 Adelphi Road College Park, MD 20740 Email: mopix@nara.gov Website: https://www.archives.gov/research/motion-pictures	Motion pictures up to the present.
Army Reserve Personnel Center 1 Archives Drive St. Louis, MO 63138	Rosters for Army Reserve units from 1917 to the present.

From the U.S. Army Center of Military History

The CMH holdings primarily relate to CMH's mission and historical products.

U.S. Army Center of Military History 102 Fourth Avenue, Bldg. 35 (Collins Hall) Fort Lesley J. McNair, DC 20319-5060 CONTACT CMH: https://www.history.army.mil/inquiries/index.html (Only a percentage of Army units have current lineage and honors information compiled, some of which is posted to https://www.history.army.mil/html/forcestruc/lh.html)	Information pertaining to unit lineage and honors Retired active duty Army general officer biographies Note: CMH also has copies of some of the operational records related to recent operations, for example Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, and Operation NEW DAWN. Due to the subject matter, the vast majority of these records are still classified and access to these records will be limited.
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Other Useful Offices

The Institute of Heraldry Room S112 9325 Gunston Road, Bldg. 1466 Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5579 Email: usarmy.belvoir.hqda.mbx.tioh-webmaster@army.mil Website: https://tioh.army.mil/default.aspx	Heraldic data; information concerning flags, colors, streamers, guidons, insignia, and uniforms.
U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center 950 Soldiers Drive Carlisle, PA 17013 Email: usarmy.carlisle.awc.mbx.ahec-ves@army.mil Website: https://ahec.armywarcollege.edu/	Unofficial materials, including unit histories, personal papers, diaries, and photographs; selected official papers are also available.
Defense Media Activity Website: https://www.dma.mil/	Official photographs and videos pertaining to the U.S. Army since the early 1980s.

Awards and Decorations Branch U.S. Army Human Resources Command ATTN: AHRC-PDP-A 1600 Spearhead Division Avenue Fort Knox, KY 40122 Email: usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-ask-hrc@army.mil Website: https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Awards%20and%20Decorations%20Branch	Awards to individuals still on active duty. Recent award recommendations and pending unit awards.
U.S. Air Force Historical Research Agency 600 Chennault Circle Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6424 Website: https://www.afhra.af.mil	Records concerning units in or assigned to the U.S. Army Air Forces.
Records Management Directorate 9301 Chapek Road, Bldg. 1458 Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5605 Email: usarmy.belvoir.hqda-rmda.mbx.rmda-certification@army.mil Website: https://www.rmda.army.mil/	The Records Management Directorate provides oversight and program management for the Army's Records Management Program along with establishing programs for records collection and operating and sustaining the Army Electronic Archive.
Army Declassification Directorate 9301 Chapek Road, Bldg. 1458 Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5605 Email: usarmy.belvoir.hqda-oaa-ahs.mbx.rmda-records-declassification@mail.mil Website: https://www.rmda.army.mil/	The Army Declassification Directorate is responsible for reviewing all 25-year-old historical Army records for declassification, exemption, or referral to other federal agencies in accordance with Executive Order 13526.

RECORDS RECAP

Unit Operational Records

Prior to 1917 – see National Archives I, Washington, D.C.

1917–1954, and from 1954 through Vietnam for units that served in Southeast Asia – see National Archives II, College Park, MD.

Unit Rosters

Prior to 1917 – see National Archives I, Washington, D.C.

From 1917 to 1968 (for Regular Army units) – see National Personnel Records Center

Unit Morning Reports

Prior to 1917 – see National Archives I, Washington, D.C.

From 1917 to 1974 (The Army discontinued use of morning reports in 1974, changing to personnel data cards) – see National Personnel Records Center

Photographs

Official photos pertaining to the U.S. Army from 1861 to the early 1980s – see the Still Picture Branch, National Archives II, College Park, MD

Official photos pertaining to the U.S. Army since the early 1980s – see the Defense Media Activity

What do we mean by Operational Records?

A U.S. Army unit operational record is something that contains information on the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, operations, or other activities of a particular unit. Examples of this would include Operational Orders (deployments and redeployments), After-Action Reports, staff duty logs, and historical summaries. Although other documents may be included, these are most often records created by the units themselves and therefore their quality and quantity vary greatly.

Note: Most unit information pertaining to individual soldiers would be in the morning reports and rosters.

ANNEX 3

SAMPLE LINEAGE REQUESTS

SAMPLE LINEAGE AND HONORS REQUEST FOR REGULAR ARMY AND ARMY RESERVE UNITS



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
(INSERT UNIT DESIGNATION)
(INSERT UNIT ADDRESS)

XXX-XX (870-5a)

date

MEMORANDUM FOR, U.S. Army Center of Military History, ATTN: ATMH-FPO, 102 4th Avenue, Building 35, Fort McNair DC 20319-5060

SUBJECT: Request for Lineage and Honors Certificate

1. In accordance with Army Regulation 870-5, Military History: Responsibilities, Policies, and Procedures, request the preparation of an updated Lineage and Honors Certificate for the [insert official unit designation]. The UIC for the unit is WxxxAA. Please forward the completed certificate to the unit at the following address:

Commander
Unit Name
[insert good mailing address for the unit]

2. (Any additional information related to the request or the unit's lineage and honors may be added here if desired.)

3. The point of contact for this action is [POC name], at POCEmail@army.mil.

Encls
Supporting Documentation

JOHN DOE
Colonel
Commanding, [unit]

SAMPLE LINEAGE AND HONORS REQUEST FOR ARMY NATIONAL GUARD UNITS



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY (INSERT UNIT DESIGNATION) (INSERT UNIT ADDRESS)

XXX-XX (870-5a)

date

MEMORANDUM THRU – TAG, your state

MEMORANDUM THRU Chief, National Guard Bureau, ATTN: NGB History Office (NGB HD), BLDG 2, 111 South George Mason Drive, Arlington, VA 22204-1382

FOR Chief of Military History, ATTN: AAMH-FPO, 102 4th Avenue, Building 35
Fort Lesley J. McNair, DC 20319-5060

SUBJECT: Request for Lineage and Honors Certificate

1. In accordance with Army Regulation 870-5, Military History: Responsibilities, Policies, and Procedures, request the preparation of an updated Lineage and Honors Certificate for the [insert official unit designation]. The UIC for the unit is WxxxAA.
2. (Any additional information related to the request or the unit's lineage and honors may be added here if desired.)
3. The point of contact for this action is [POC name], at POCEmail@army.mil.

Encls
Supporting Documentation

JOHN DOE
Colonel
Commanding, [unit]

SAMPLE REQUEST FOR SPECIAL UNIT DESIGNATION



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY (INSERT UNIT DESIGNATION) (INSERT UNIT ADDRESS)

XXX-XX (870-5a)

date

MEMORANDUM FOR, U.S. Army Center of Military History, ATTN: ATMH-FPO, 102 4th Avenue, Building 35, Fort McNair DC 20319-5060

[FOR ARNG units use:
MEMORANDUM THRU – TAG, your state

MEMORANDUM THRU Chief, National Guard Bureau, ATTN: NGB History Office (NGB HD), BLDG 2, 111 South George Mason Drive, Arlington, VA 22204-1382]

FOR Chief of Military History, ATTN: AAMH-FPO, 102 4th Avenue, Building 35 Fort Lesley J. McNair, DC 20319-5060]

SUBJECT: Request for Special Designation

1. In accordance with Army Regulation 870-5, Military History: Responsibilities, Policies, and Procedures, request the Distinctive Designation of XXXXXXXXXX be approved for the [insert official unit designation]. This Distinctive Designation [insert why the unit wants this Distinctive Designation. If the unit is requesting a Traditional Designation, how long unit has used it and documentation needs to be provided.] Please forward the completed certificate to the unit at the following address:

Commander
Unit Name
[insert good mailing address for the unit]

[Please note the mailing address is needed for RA and AR only, ARNG certificates are forwarded to units through the National Guard Bureau.]

2. (Any additional information related to the request of the Special Designation may be added here if desired.)

3. The point of contact for this action is [POC name], at POCEmail@army.mil.

Encls
Supporting Documentation

JOHN DOE
Colonel
Commanding, [unit]

SAMPLE REQUEST FOR UNIT DAY



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
(INSERT UNIT DESIGNATION)
(INSERT UNIT ADDRESS)

XXX-XX (870-5a)

date

MEMORANDUM FOR, U.S. Army Center of Military History, ATTN: ATMH-FPO, 102 4th Avenue, Building 35, Fort McNair DC 20319-5060

[FOR ARNG units use:
MEMORANDUM THRU – TAG, your state

MEMORANDUM THRU Chief, National Guard Bureau, ATTN: NGB History Office (NGB HD), BLDG 2, 111 South George Mason Drive, Arlington, VA 22204-1382

FOR Chief of Military History, ATTN: AAMH-FPO, 102 4th Avenue, Building 35
Fort Lesley J. McNair, DC 20319-5060]

SUBJECT: Request for Unit Day

1. In accordance with Army Regulation 870-5, Military History: Responsibilities, Policies, and Procedures, request the Unit Day of [insert DAY MONTH] be approved for the [insert official unit designation]. This Unit Day is in commemoration of [insert what the unit is commemorating with this day. This will be included on the official Unit Day certificate.] Please forward the completed certificate to the unit at the following address:

Commander
Unit Name

[insert good mailing address for the unit]

[Please note the mailing address is needed for RA and AR only, ARNG certificates are forwarded to units through the National Guard Bureau.]

2. (Any additional information related to the request of the Unit Day may be added here if desired.)

3. The point of contact for this action is [POC name], at POCEmail@army.mil.

Encls
Supporting Documentation

JOHN DOE
Colonel
Commanding, [unit]

ANNEX 4

WHO DOES WHAT?

TABLE 1—BY FUNCTION

Action	Office	See
Awards - Streamer authorization	CMH-FPO	Section 11
Awards - Submission and approval	Awards Branch, HRC	Section 14
Campaign Credit - Awarding	Awards Branch, HRC	Section 14
Campaign Credit - Streamer authorization	CMH-FPO	Section 11
Flags, Guidons, and Insignia - Design	TIOH	Section 14
Flags and Guidons - Ordering	TACOM	Section 14
Lineage and Honors Certificate	CMH-FPO	Section 11
Unit Mottos	TIOH	Section 14
Special Designations/Nicknames	CMH-FPO	Section 5
Streamer - Authorization	CMH-FPO	Section 11
Streamers - Ordering	TACOM	Section 14
Unit Historical Property	MSC-A	Section 14
Uniform Wear	Army Uniform Policy Branch	Section 14
Unit Days	CMH-FPO	Section 6

TABLE 2—BY OFFICE

How to contact	Web	Email
CMH-FPO	https://www.history.army.mil/unitinfo.html	usarmy.mcnair.cmh.mbx.answers@army.mil
MSC-A (Anniston)	https://www.history.army.mil/museums/	usarmy.mcnair.cmh.mbx.answers@army.mil
TIOH	https://tioh.army.mil/default.aspx	usarmy.belvoir.hqda.mbx.tioh-webmaster@army.mil
TACOM	https://heraldry.army.mil	_____
Awards Branch, HRC	https://www.hrc.army.mil/content/Awards%20and%20Decorations%20Branch	usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-awards@army.mil
Army Uniform Policy Branch	https://www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/uniform/default.asp	usarmy.pentagon.hqda-dcs-g-1.mbx.uniform-policy@army.mil

ANNEX 5

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ACTIVATE: To transfer a constituted Regular Army or USAR MTOE unit from the inactive to the active Rolls of the Army. Normally, the unit is stationed at a specific location and assigned personnel and equipment; however, a unit may be active at zero strength. See also ORGANIZE.

ALLOT: To assign a unit to one of three Army components: the Regular Army, the Army National Guard, and the United States Army Reserve. Units can be reallocated to another component, but the soldiers in them rarely transfer to that component.

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD (ARNG): The part of the Organized Militia of the several states and territories that is a land force, is trained, and has its officers appointed under the sixteenth clause of Section 8, Article I of the U.S. Constitution; is organized, armed, and equipped wholly or partly at federal expense; and is Federally recognized.

ASSIGN: To make a unit part of a larger organization and place it under that organization's command and control until it is relieved from the assignment. As a rule, only assignments to divisions and separate combined arms brigades are shown in unit lineages.

ATTACH: To place a unit under the command and control of another organization on a temporary basis.

AUGMENTATION UIC: A nonstandard organization that augments an MTOE organization. A TDA augmentation to a parent MTOE will be documented with a derivative UIC of the parent unit such as WXXX99.

AWARD: Recognition given to individuals or units for certain acts or services, in the form of badges, accolades, emblems, citations, commendations, and streamers. Also, an adjective used to identify administrative functions relating to recognition (for example, awards boards, award recommendations, and so forth).

CALL INTO FEDERAL SERVICE: In 1917, when President Woodrow Wilson ordered the National Guard into Federal service with the support of Congress, he used the word “called” rather than “ordered.” The language was different, but the effect was the same.

CARRIER UNIT IDENTIFICATION CODE (UIC): A code assigned to a unit in order to provide a means to assign personnel to and account for equipment in that unit until activation. When Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA), assigns a UIC for unit activation, a carrier UIC is also assigned.

COLOR: A specific flag that is symbolic of the spirit and tradition of the United States, or the position, individual, or organization represented. The flag of the United States, when displayed as indicated in AR 840–10, is known as the “National Color.” When used alone, the term “color” refers to the National Color. When used in the plural, the term “colors” means the national and positional or organizational colors.

COMBAT ARMS REGIMENTAL SYSTEM (CARS): Between 1957 and 1960, the Army broke up combat arms regiments as fixed tactical formations and reorganized them as battalions without organic headquarters. The United States Army Regimental System (USARS) replaced CARS in the 1980s. (See Section 9.)

CONSOLIDATE: To merge or combine two or more units into one new unit. The new unit usually retains the designation of one of the original units and inherits the lineage and honors of the units involved in the merger.

CONSTITUTE: An administrative action that places the designation of a new MTOE unit on the official Rolls of the Army. This action occurs before a unit starts to organize, receives equipment, or acquires personnel.

CONVERT: To transfer a unit from one branch to another. Units can change function within a branch and still be organized within that branch.

DECORATION: A distinctively designed mark of honor denoting valor, heroism, meritorious and/or outstanding service, and/or achievement for individuals and units.

DEMOBILIZE: To release an ARNG or USAR unit from active Federal or military service.

DERIVATIVE UNIT IDENTIFICATION CODE (DUIC): An element of a formally organized unit that is authorized a UIC. Derivatives can be lettered companies (ex: WXXXA0), detachments of lettered companies (ex: WXXXA1), or detachments of whole units (ex: WXXXY1).

DESIGNATE: To give an official name to a unit. A designation usually consists of a number, a branch or function, and a command echelon for MTOE units or a descriptive name for TDA units.

DETACHMENT: A part of a unit separated from its main organization for duty elsewhere. Alternately, a temporary military unit formed from other units or parts of units. Example: Detachment, Company A, 40th Engineer Battalion; Detachment, 259th Transportation Detachment.

DISBAND: To remove the designation of a Regular Army or USAR unit from the official Rolls of the Army. Disbandment is intended to be permanent and irreversible except in extraordinary circumstances. The word is also applicable to ARNG units prior to World War I. Since then, the phrase “withdraw Federal recognition” is used for ARNG units rather than “disband.”

DISCONTINUE: To terminate the existence of a TDA or provisional unit.

DRAFT: On 5 August 1917, President Woodrow Wilson drafted the entire National Guard into Federal service. The law made no provision for National Guard units to serve outside the United States, so the president drafted National Guard soldiers into Federal service as individuals. As units mobilized initially under the prewar structure, the draft gave the Army leeway to reorganize and consolidate units as it saw fit.

ELEMENT: A unit that is a part of a larger organization. An element can also be a section or a detachment of a unit. Company A, 40th Engineer Battalion, is an element of the 40th Engineer Battalion, but the motor section of an armored company is also an element.

FEDERALLY RECOGNIZE: To accept an ARNG unit into the force structure of the United States Army after the unit has been inspected by a federal representative and found to be properly stationed, organized, and equipped in accordance with Army requirements.

FOREIGN DECORATION: Any order, decoration, device, medal, badge, insignia, emblem, or award tendered by or received from a foreign government.

HONORS: Unit decorations and credit for campaign participation and war service that have been bestowed by a competent authority upon an organization.

INACTIVATE: To place a Regular Army or USAR unit that is not currently needed in the force structure in an inoperative status without assigned personnel or equipment for a limited time. The unit is transferred to the inactive rolls of the United States Army, but it can be activated again whenever needed. Its personnel and equipment are reassigned to one or more active units, and its historical records and properties are placed in storage. Upon reactivation, the unit retains its former history, lineage, and honors, and it may retrieve its records and properties from storage. The term “inactivate” has been used only since 1921. Before that time, units either remained active or were removed from the Rolls of the Army.

INDUCT: In 1940 and 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt used a series of Executive Orders to order most of the National Guard into Federal service with the consent of Congress. He used the term “induct” rather than “order.”

LINEAGE: The line of descent of an MTOE unit from its origin, stated in terms of events that have changed its status.

LOCATION CHANGE: In a lineage entry, making a permanent change to the station of an ARNG or USAR organization.

MODIFIED TABLE OF ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPMENT (MTOE): A unit with a discernable command structure, a specific mission, assigned strength and equipment, and a home station.

MUSTERED: Prior to the 1917 call, militia soldiers assembled at their home station and mustered into Federal service as units. During the War with Spain, because the law made no provision for service outside the United States, they reorganized as United States Volunteer units as they mustered into service.

NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES (NGUS): During the Korean War, the Army authorized states to organize units to take the place of National Guard units ordered into Federal service. These units had the same tables of organization, and the same designation, and drilled in the home armories of the units in Federal service. To differentiate between the two units, the stateside units added “NGUS” after their designation. When the Army released a unit from Federal service, it withdrew Federal recognition from the NGUS unit, and the two units consolidated.

ORDERED INTO/RELEASED FROM ACTIVE FEDERAL SERVICE: To place an ARNG unit on full-time active duty under the control of the United States Army. The unit remains in Federal service until released by the Army, at which time it reverts to the control of its home state or states.

ORDERED INTO/RELEASED FROM ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE: To place a USAR unit on full-time active duty under the control of the United States Army. The unit remains in military service until released by the Army, at which time it reverts to reserve status.

ORGANIC ELEMENT: A permanent part of a unit's Table of Organization, as opposed to a unit that is assigned or attached. Lettered companies of battalions are organic elements. Separately numbered companies are attached.

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORICAL PROPERTY: Historical property of unique significance to and belonging to a particular Army organization.

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY FILE: Historical documents, photographs, and other items of significance to and belonging to a particular Army organization.

ORGANIZE: To assign personnel and equipment to a unit and make it operative— that is, capable of performing its mission. For ARNG units, the term “organize” is used instead of “activate.”

OUTLINE HISTORY: The section of a Lineage and Honors Certificate that constitutes a unit's official record from the time of its organization, through all reorganizations, redesignations, and changes in status.

PARENT REGIMENT: An administrative entity organized under the CARS or the USARS to perpetuate the history of the elements of the organization.

PARENTHETICAL IDENTIFICATION: A word or phrase, usually referring to a function, added in parentheses after an organization's official designation. For example: 1st Battalion (Airborne), 504th Infantry Regiment; 378th Transportation Detachment (Movement Control).

PERPETUATE: To preserve and continue the official history of a MTOE unit by redesignating and reorganizing it as the Army needs. The 327th Transportation Detachment perpetuates the 3327th Quartermaster Driver Detachment because the Army converted, reorganized, and redesignated the quartermaster detachment as the transportation detachment. The 327th Transportation Detachment and the 3327th Quartermaster Driver Detachment are lineally the same unit.

PROVISIONAL UNIT: A unit organized, either under an MTOE or TDA, from military personnel on temporary duty from their assigned positions for a specific mission. Recognition of the provisional unit does not extend beyond the jurisdiction of the command by which it is organized.

RECONSTITUTE: To restore to the official Rolls of the Army a unit that has been disbanded or whose Federal recognition has been withdrawn.

REDESIGNATE: To change a unit's official name or number or both. This action is a change of title only. The unit's lineage and honors remain the same.

REFLAG: To replace one unit's designation, lineage and honors, flag and heraldic items, with those of a different unit, either through activation/inactivation or transfer, while retaining the original unit's UIC, personnel, and equipment.

REGULAR ARMY (RA): The component of the Army maintained in peace as well as in war; that is, a permanent land force, regulated by law, and maintained by federal funding and oversight prescribed by Congress.

REORGANIZE: To change the structure of a unit in accordance with a new TOE or to change from one type of unit to another in the same branch. Also, to organize a former unit.

RESERVE COMPONENTS OF THE U.S. ARMY: See ARMY NATIONAL GUARD (ARNG) and UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE (AR or USAR).

ROLLS OF THE ARMY: A list of all officially constituted units, of all components, whether in an active or an inactive state.

SPECIAL DESIGNATION: An authorized nickname granted to a military organization. A special designation is not to be confused with a motto, which is part of a unit's heraldic items.

TABLE OF DISTRIBUTION AND ALLOWANCES (TDA): A unit organized to conduct training or to staff installations, offices, or other facilities. A military unit organized to perform a specific mission for which there is no appropriate TOE.

TABLE OF ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPMENT (TOE): A document that prescribes the official designation, normal mission, organizational structure, and personnel and equipment requirements for a military unit and is the basis for an authorization document. See also MTOE.

UNIT: Any military organization whose structure is prescribed by a competent military authority and that has its own UIC.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION CODE (UIC): A six-character symbol, beginning with W, identifying each unit in the Army.

U.S. ARMY REGIMENTAL SYSTEM (USARS): An administrative system established in the mid-1980s to replace the Combat Arms Regimental System (CARS). USARS establishes parameters for ceremonial and administrative oversight in the absence of an active regimental headquarters. USARS applies to all branches and is not limited to the combat arms regiments. (For more information, see AR 870-21.)

UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE (AR or USAR): A federal force consisting of individual reinforcements and units organized and maintained to provide military training in peacetime and a reservoir of trained units and individual reservists to be ordered to active duty in the event of a national emergency.

WITHDRAW FEDERAL RECOGNITION: To remove an ARNG unit from the Rolls of the Army. Federal recognition is withdrawn when the unit no longer meets Army requirements or is no longer needed in the force structure.

CONTRIBUTORS

This publication was written through the collective effort, knowledge, and experience of the U.S. Army Center of Military History (CMH) Force Structure and Organizational History Division:

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UNIT HISTORY 101 *Understanding Your Lineage and Honors*

Center of Military History



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